

February — April 2026

DISCOVER



Winter Reading Program | Local Author Fest | National Library Week | Fishers Make-Off | Seed Library



HAMILTON EAST
PUBLIC LIBRARY

In This Issue

Winter Reading Program	4
Local Author Fest	6
National Library Week	7
Programs for Children	8
Programs for Teens	10
Programs for Adults	12
Crossroads Discovery Center	14
Disability Awareness Month	15
Ignite Studio	16
Fishers Make-Off	17
Growing Together: How a Seed Library Helped a School Garden	18

Cover: Sand Creek Elementary staff and students with their gardening tools.
Photograph by: Claire Robertson, HSE High School Externship

Disability Awareness Month Events

Subscribe to our enewsletter to stay updated on all library happenings!



@HamiltonEastPL

Discover Guide

The Discover Guide is a quarterly publication of the Hamilton East Public Library, providing info on library events, services, and resources.



Highlights

Winter Reading Program

From February 1 – 28, catch the Olympic spirit with Hamilton East's annual Winter Reading Challenge! Celebrate the 2026 Winter Olympics by logging your reading time and earning Olympic-inspired badges throughout the month.

Local Author Fest

Join us for the 2026 HEPL Local Author Fest the weekend of April 18-19. The festival supporting local authors features writing and publishing workshops on Saturday, followed by the long-running annual HEPL Local Author Fair on Sunday.

Celebrate National Library Week 2026 with the Treehouse Ten!

This April, we're bringing a little woodland wonder into the library with our first ever set of collectible library trading cards, featuring the Treehouse Ten, a team of charming mascots inspired by wildlife native to Indiana.

Fishers Make-Off

Showcasing the ways artists elevate and utilize Ignite's resources, Ignite Studio will host its third annual Make-Off on March 21.

Seed Library

The Seed Library will open for the year on February 9. Read about how Sand Creek Elementary brought their school gardens to life with seeds from the Library!

Community Spotlight



Geist Half Marathon: Register Now

Registration for the 18th annual Geist Half Marathon, 10K, and 5K is now open! This family-friendly community tradition returns on Saturday, September 12. Register at GeistHalf.com.



Stay Active at the Fishers Community Center

Residents and visitors can enjoy free access to the indoor track and the Fishers Community Center Indoor Playground by signing up for a Community Pass at FishersCommunityCenter.com.



March Disability Awareness Month

This annual celebration features a series of special events and initiatives throughout the city, including the return of the Ally campaign, which invites residents to become advocates for disability inclusion. Learn more at fishersIN.gov/DisabilityAwareness.



Embrace Downtown Noblesville

Embrace Downtown is the beginning of a long-discussed project to enhance safety and walkability, nurture a vibrant local economy, and invest in public infrastructure for a connected, inclusive community.



Noblesville Boom

In 2025, the Noblesville Boom, the G League affiliate of the Indiana Pacers, kicked off their inaugural season inside The Arena at Innovation Mile. Check out where the most BOOMING moments happen!



Shop Local

The City of Noblesville encourages you to shop local all year round to support local businesses, which are the heartbeat of our community.

WINTER OLYMPICS

Reading Challenge

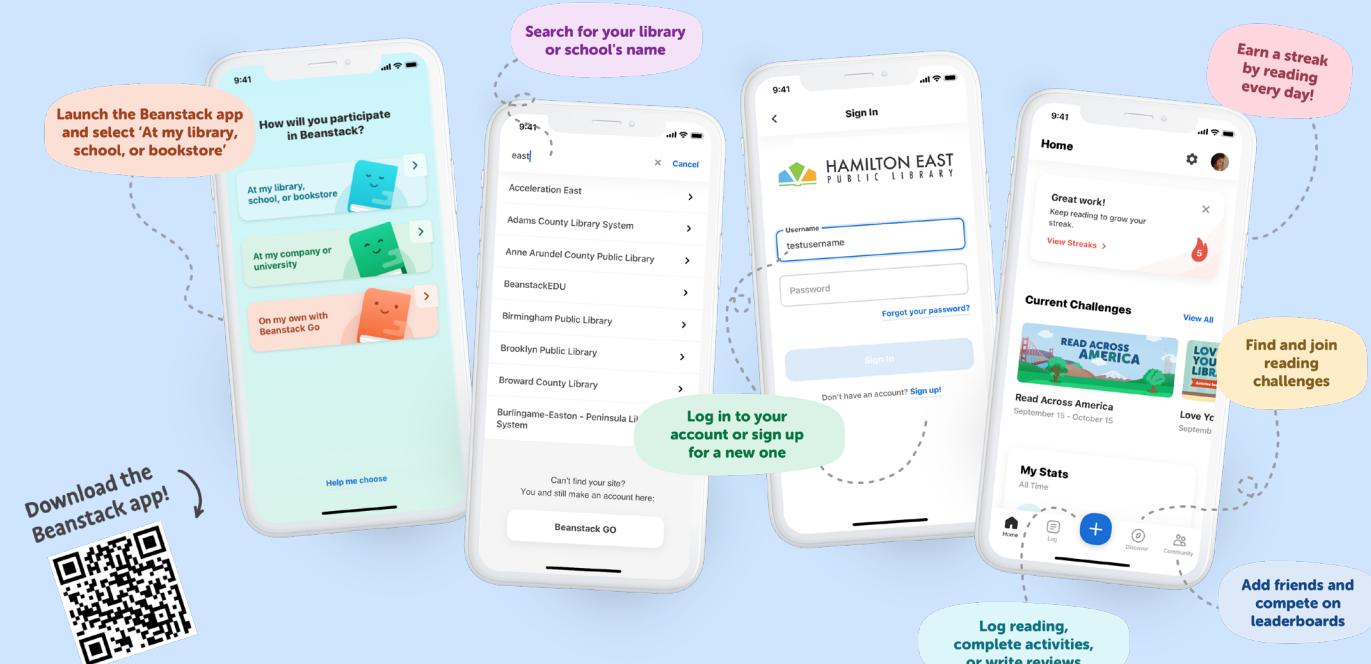


Join the Winter Reading Challenge!

From February 1 – 28, catch the Olympic spirit with Hamilton East's annual Winter Reading Challenge!

The 2026 Winter Olympics will be held in the Italian cities of Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo. Athletes will compete in fun sports like skiing, snowboarding, and ice skating in the snowy mountains and on the ice.

Celebrate by logging your reading time and earning Olympic-inspired badges throughout the month.

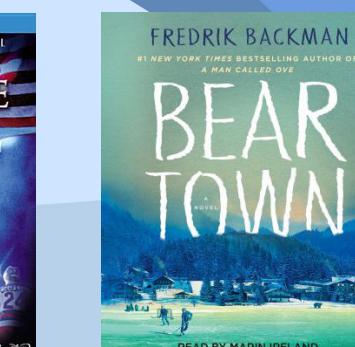
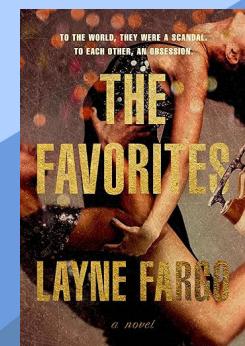
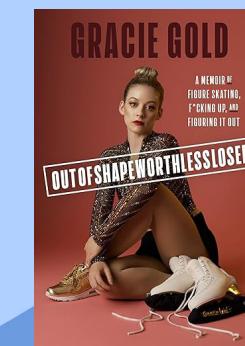
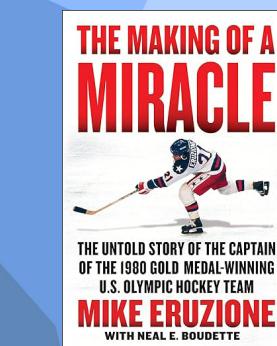
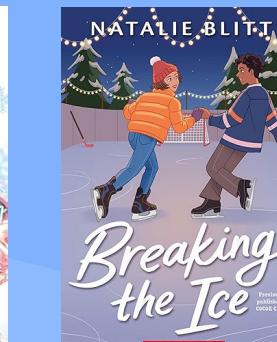
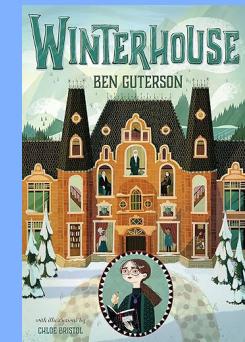
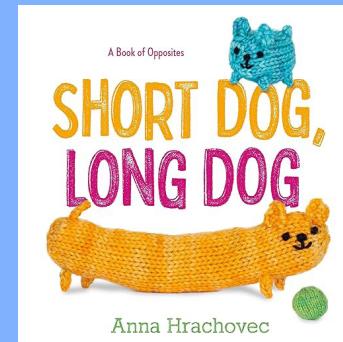
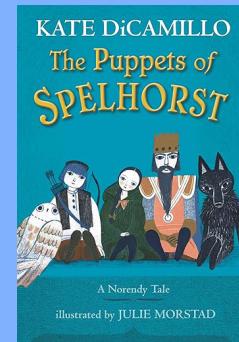
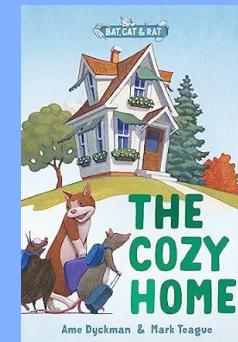


Read and log 300 minutes to complete the challenge! Every badge earns an e-ticket for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to a variety of retailers.

Drawings will be held the week of March 9th, and winners will be contacted via email or phone. TWO winners will be chosen randomly per gift card option.

Download the Beanstack app or visit our website to get started. Patrons with an existing Beanstack account can simply log in to join the challenge. Pre-registration starts on January 12.

Winter Reading Booklists



LOCAL AUTHOR FEST

APRIL 18-19, 2026

WRITING WORKSHOPS
SATURDAY, APRIL 18
10 AM - 4:30 PM
NOBLESVILLE LIBRARY

LOCAL AUTHOR FAIR
SUNDAY, APRIL 19
1 PM - 4 PM
HAMILTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Join us for the 2026 HEPL Local Author Fest! The festival supporting local authors features writing and publishing workshops on April 18, followed by the long-running annual HEPL Local Author Fair, an open house-style event for all ages on April 19.

The free writing and publishing workshops will be led by local authors and instructors Myra Levine, Michelle McGill-Vargas, Chris Clouser, and Professor Watermelon & Mister Smart. While free, registration is required for each workshop as space is limited. Registration opens on March 19. Visit the HEPL event calendar for full details on workshop topics and times.

The Local Author Fair is changing venues in 2026 and will take place at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds (2003 Pleasant St, Noblesville, IN 46060).

"Hamilton County and the surrounding areas are home to many talented Hoosier writers—some self-published, others

published through traditional houses. The HEPL Local Author Fair offers a unique opportunity to connect directly with dozens of authors and literary organizations while supporting local storytelling," said Systemwide Program Coordinator, Allison Kartman.

More than 60 local authors and literary organizations from Fishers, Noblesville, Carmel, Westfield, Indianapolis, and surrounding areas will participate and meet with the public. Attendees will have the chance to purchase books, enjoy author signings, and discover a wide range of genres—including picture books, mysteries, thrillers, action and adventure, true crime, biographies, romance, self-help, Indiana history, science fiction, and more. Plus, attendees will have opportunities to win books and other exciting prizes throughout the event!

Entry to the Local Author Fair is free, and all ages are welcome to attend, including children, teens, adults, and families. Parking at the Hamilton County Fairgrounds is also free.



CELEBRATE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK 2026 WITH THE TREEHOUSE TEN

This April, we're bringing a little woodland wonder into the library with our first ever set of collectible library trading cards, featuring the Treehouse Ten, a team of charming mascots inspired by wildlife native to Indiana. Each mascot highlights a unique activity, resource, or experience available at our libraries, and we invite you to discover them all.

During National Library Week, April 19 - 25, you can collect, learn, and explore your way through the building as you earn each card by completing its matching activity. Check out a book to meet one character, visit our Seed Library to unlock another, or explore our Library of

Things to find your next favorite mascot. Every card reveals something special, whether it's a new tool to try, an event to enjoy, or a unique resource that you didn't know existed.



Designed for all ages, the Treehouse Ten encourages families, kids, teens, and adults to celebrate the library in a playful new way. Whether you're a seasoned library explorer or a first-time visitor, you'll have the chance to experience all the different ways a library can inspire you while collecting this limited-edition set.

Visit throughout the week, track your progress, and see how many members of the Treehouse Ten you can bring home. Collect all 10 cards to earn a prize and be entered into a drawing for a grand prize at the end of the week. Trade with friends, learn something new, and rediscover the magic waiting in every corner of the library.

Adventure is growing at the library - come collect it!



For Children & Families

Check the online events calendar for full event details at hepl.libnet.info/events. Programs with an asterisk (*) require registration.

Sticker Mania | Families

Wed. 2/4, 3/4, 4/1 | 3-4pm | NOB



Masterpiece Makers* | Ages 8-11

Fri. 2/6, 3/13, 4/3 | 1-3pm | FIS

Family LEGO Challenge* | Families

Wed. 2/4, 3/4, 4/1 | 4pm & 6pm | FIS

Thu. 2/12, 3/12, 4/9 | 4pm & 6pm | NOB

Read to a Therapy Dog – Love on a Leash | Ages 5 & up

Sat. 2/7, 3/7, 4/4 | 11am-12pm | NOB

Sat. 2/14, 3/14, 4/11 | 11am-12pm | FIS

Jr. Chef* – Homeschool Edition

Tue. 2/10, 3/10, 4/14 | 1-2pm | NOB

Full STEAM Ahead* | Ages 8-11

Wed. 2/11, 3/11, 4/8 | 3-4pm | NOB

Don't Let the Pigeon Have the Key!* | Ages 6-8

Tue. 2/17 | 4-6pm | FIS

Cool Crafting Club* | Grades 1-5

Wed. 2/18, 3/18, 4/15 | 2-3pm & 6-7pm | NOB

Mad Scientists* | Ages 8-11

Wed. 2/18, 3/18, 4/15 | 6-7pm | FIS

Thu. 2/19, 3/19, 4/16 | 1:30-2:30pm | FIS | Homeschool Ed.



Pokémon Club* | Ages 6-11

Thu. 2/19, 3/19, 4/16 | 3-4pm | NOB

Wed. 2/25, 3/25, 4/29 | 6-7pm | FIS

Young Hoosier Award Homeschool Book Club* | Ages 8-11

Tue. 2/24, 3/31, 4/21 | 2-3pm | NOB

Gathering STEAM* | Ages 5-7

Wed. 2/25, 3/25, 4/22 | 3-4pm | NOB

Nerf Wars | Ages 6-11

Sat. 2/28 | 2-3pm | FIS

The Whisk Kids* | Ages 6-11 & their Families

Sun. 2/1, 3/1, 4/26 | 2-3:30pm | NOB

Wonder Lab* | Ages 3-7

Sat. 3/21, 4/11 | 11am-12pm | NOB

Wed. 4/8 | 2-3pm | FIS

Up 2 STEAM* | Grades K-2

Wed. 2/11, 3/11, 4/22 | 6-7 pm | FIS

Breakpoint | Families

Thu. 2/12, 3/12, 4/9 | 3:30-4:45pm | FIS

Mon. 4/6 | 3:30-4:45pm | FIS



Pig the Pug Party* | Ages 2-6

Mon. 3/2 | 10-11am | NOB

Toddler Rave | Toddlers-Preschoolers

Wed. 3/4 | 11-11:45am | NOB

Unicorn Diaries Library Adventure* | Ages 5-9

Tue. 3/3 | 6-7pm | FIS

A Very Special The Very Hungry Caterpillar Celebration* | Ages 0-5

Fri. 3/20 | 10-11am | NOB



Meet the Author:

Kwame Mbalia*

Tue. 3/24 | 6-7pm | FIS

Orchestra Storytime | 0-5

Fri. 3/27 | 10:30-11am | FIS

Garfield Interactive Movie* | Families

Sun. 3/29 | 2-4pm | FIS

Family Bingo | Families

Wed. 4/8 | 2-3pm | NOB

Ballet Storytime | Ages 2-5

Sat. 4/11 | 10-11am | FIS

Fairy Gnome Homes* | Grades K & up

Sat. 4/18 | 10-11am & 11:15am-12:15pm | NOB

Sonic the Hedgehog Interactive Movie* | Families

Sun. 4/26 | 2-4pm | FIS

Movie Matinee: Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie* | Families

Fri. 4/3 | 2-4pm | NOB

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Library Fun!* | Ages 8-12

Tue. 4/14 | 6-7pm | FIS

Storytimes & Music Programs

Noblesville Branch

Babytime | Ages 0-2

Mon. Feb. 2, 16, 23; Mar. 16, 23, 30; Apr. 13, 20, 27 | 9:30-10am

Wed. Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; Mar. 18, 25; Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 10:30-11am

Storytime | Ages 2-5

Mon. Feb. 2, 16, 23; Mar. 16, 23, 30; Apr. 13, 20, 27 | 10:30-11am

Thu. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; Mar. 19, 26; Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 9:30-10am & 10:30-11am

Tot Tunes | Ages 0-5

Tue. Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; Mar. 17, 24, 31; Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 9:30-10am

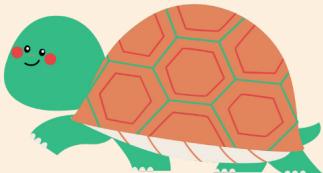
Wed. Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; Mar. 18, 25; Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 10:30-11am

Pre-K Explorers | Ages 3-5

Thu. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; Mar. 19, 26; Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 1-2pm

Boogie Woogie Weekend | Ages 0-5

Sat. Feb. 28, Mar. 28, Apr. 25 | 11-11:30am



Fishers Branch

Babytime | Ages 0-2

Wed. Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; Mar. 18, 25; Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 9:30-10am

Thu. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; Mar. 19, 26; Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 9:30-10am

Storytime | Ages 2-5

Mon. Feb. 2, 9, 16; Mar. 16, 30; Apr. 6, 13, 27 | 9:30-10am

Tue. Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; Mar. 17, 24, 31; Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 9:30-10am & 10:30-11am

Thu. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; Mar. 19, 26; Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 | 10:30-11am

Tot Tunes | Ages 0-5

Mon. Feb. 2, 9, 16; Mar. 16, 30; Apr. 6, 13, 27 | 10:30-11am

Wed. Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; Mar. 18, 25; Apr. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 | 10:30-11am

Pre-K Explorers | Ages 3-5

Tue. Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24; Mar. 17, 24, 31; Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28 | 1-2pm

Sunday Stories | Ages 2 and up

Sun. Feb. 8, Mar. 8 | 2-2:30pm

For Teens

Check the online events calendar for full event details at hepl.libnet.info/events. Programs with an asterisk (*) require registration.

A Complete Guide to Standardized Testing*

Tue. 2/3 | 6-7:30pm | NOB

Designed specifically for high school students, this program walks you through what standardized tests are, why (and when) they matter, and how they fit into your college and career plans.



Neurodivergent Teen Hangout*

Thu. 2/5, 3/5, 4/2 | 6-7pm | NOB

Thu. 2/19, 3/26, 4/16 | 5:30-6:30pm | FIS

Feb. & April: Game Night | March: Spring Fest

After-Hours Mini Golf*

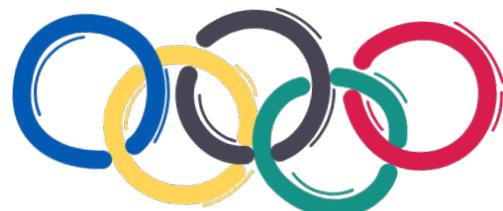
Fri. 2/6 | 5:45-7:30pm | FIS

Palentine's Day: Paint with Your Pals*

Tue. 2/10 | 5:30-7pm | NOB

Wed. 2/11 | 5:30-7pm | FIS

Create paintings with a K-Pop Demon Hunter theme with other teens to celebrate Palentine's Day!



Teen Winter Olympics*

Mon. 2/16 | 2-3pm | FIS

Get into the Olympic spirit by competing in different mini games to see who will take home the gold!

Crafty Teens*

Tue. 2/17, 3/10, 4/14 | 6-7pm | NOB

Wed. 2/18, 3/11, 4/8 | 6-7pm | FIS

Feb: Bad Art Night | March: Perler Beads | April: Paint Pots and Plant Seeds from the Seed Library



Teen Video Game Club*

Tue. 2/24, 3/17, 4/28 | 6-7:30pm | NOB

Wed. 2/25, 3/25, 4/22 | 6-7:30pm | FIS

April: VR

Teen Video Game Tournament*

Sat. 2/28 | 2-3pm | FIS | Just Dance

Tue. 3/31 | 2-3pm | NOB | Nintendo Switch Sports



Teen Writing Challenge

February 1-28

Challenge yourself to write a Historical Fiction or Historical Fantasy short story! Teen writers can submit an original short story for a chance to win a gift card and have their story shared on our website.

Meet the Author:

Kwame Mbalia*

Tue. 3/24 | 6-7 pm | FIS



Join us to hear from award-winning author Kwame Mbalia, author of the *Tristan Strong* and *Jax Freeman* series!

Kwame is a husband, father, writer, a New York Times bestselling author, publisher, and a former pharmaceutical metrologist (in that order). A Howard University graduate and a Midwesterner now in North Carolina, he survives on Dad jokes and Cheez-Its.

Following the program, Kwame will be available to sign books. LoudMouth Books will be onsite with a selection of books for purchase.

After-Hours Laser Tag*

Fri. 3/13 | 5:45-7:30pm | NOB

Fri. 4/3 | 5:45-7:30pm | FIS

Amusement Park Mishap Teen Breakout Room*

Tue. 4/7 | 3-4pm | NOB

Teen Gourmet:

French Toast*

Thu. 4/9

12-1:30pm | NOB

Sat. 4/11

12-1:30pm | FIS



Life Skills: Healthy Relationships*

Tue. 4/21 | 6-7pm | NOB

Join Prevail Inc. of Hamilton County as they invite teens to learn how to stay safe in their friendships and other relationships.

For Teens & Adults

Gamers Guild*

Sun. 2/1, 3/1, 3/29, 4/26 | 1-5pm | NOB

Acing the Interview*

Mon. 2/16 | 6-7:30pm | NOB

Documentary Film Night: Waste Land*

Tue. 2/17 | 6-8pm | FIS



Artemis: Returning to the Moon with Michelle Nichols*

Tue. 2/24 | 6:30-7:30pm | Virtual

Learn about NASA's Artemis II mission, which is scheduled to launch in April 2026 and will send four astronauts around the Moon and back as a test of the new Orion spacecraft.

Notes on Blindness: A Virtual Reality Experience*

Tue. 3/17 | 5:30-6:15pm & 6:30-7:15pm | NOB

For Disability Awareness Month, join us for this award-winning narrative virtual reality experience. Using a Meta Quest 2 VR headset, you will discover a world beyond sight.

Cool Careers: Wedding Planner*

Wed. 3/18 | 6-7pm | FIS

Cascadia & Beyond: An Earth Day Game Night*

Tue. 4/21 | 5:30-7:30pm | NOB

Celebrate Earth Day at the library with an open gaming event! Explore board games that highlight nature, sustainability, and the environment while enjoying a fun and social atmosphere.

Online Job Search Basics*

Mon. 4/27 | 6-7:30pm | NOB

For Adults

Check the online events calendar for full event details at hepl.libnet.info/events. Programs with an asterisk (*) require registration.

Growing Citrus in the Midwest*

Thu. 2/5 | 6-7:30pm | FIS

Virtual Tai Chi with Kayle*

Every 1st and 3rd Monday | 9:30-10:30am | Virtual

The Write Stuff: A Virtual Adult Writers' Group*

Mon. 2/9, 3/9, 4/13 | 6:30-7:30pm | Virtual

FlexAbility*

Every Tuesday beginning 2/10 | 9:30-10:15am | NOB

Book Speed Dating: Find Your Perfect Literary Match*

Tue. 2/10 | 6-6:30pm or 7-7:30pm | NOB

Medicare 101 presented by SHIP

Wed. 2/11 | 6-7:30pm | FIS & Thu. 2/19 | 6-7:30pm | NOB

Adult Virtual Craft Series*

Thu. 2/12 & 4/9 | 6:30-7:45pm | Virtual

Acing the Interview*

Mon. 2/16 | 6-7:30pm | FIS

Feel-Good Friday Chair Yoga*

Fri. 2/20, 3/20, 4/10 | 2-2:45pm | FIS

Artemis: Returning to the Moon with Michelle Nichols*

Tue. 2/24 | 6:30-7:30pm | Virtual

Learn about NASA's Artemis II mission, launching April 2026.



Essential Soft Skills for Employment & Career Growth with Ivy Tech Community College*

Wed. 2/25 | 5-7:30pm | FIS

Community Blood Drive*

Wed. 2/25 | 2:30-6:30pm | FIS

Thu. 4/23 | 2:30-6:30pm | NOB

The Beginner's Guide to Foraging with Hoosier Forager*

Sat. 3/7 | 2-4pm | FIS

Book Clubs

Visit hamiltoneastpl.org/lets-read for meeting locations and book selections.

Books on Tap

Wed. 2/25, 3/25, 4/22 | 6:30-7:30pm

Fiction Fans

Thu. 2/12, 3/12, 4/9 | 6:30-7:30pm

Mystery Loves Company

Wed. 2/18, 3/18, 4/15 | 6:30-7:30pm

On the Same Page

Tue. 2/10, 3/10, 4/14 | 6:30-7:30pm

Paging Through Time

Wed. 2/25, 3/25, 4/22 | 2-3pm

Read Around the World

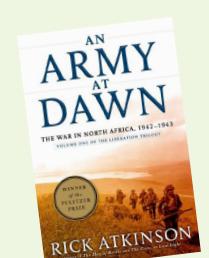
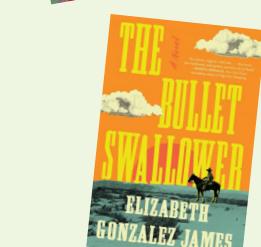
Mon. 2/2, 3/2, 4/6 | 6:30-7:30pm

Speculative Fiction Guild

Mon. 2/9, 3/9, 4/14 | 6:30-7:30pm

True Brew Nonfiction

Tue. 2/24, 3/24, 4/28 | 7-8:30pm



Crafternoon: Coloring Quote Bookmarks*

Sat. 3/7 | 3-4:30pm | NOB

Celebrate International Women's Day & Women's History Month by watching a documentary and coloring bookmarks.

Career Charting Workshop Series with Beverly Barr*

Mon. 3/9, 3/16, 3/23 | 5:30-7:30pm | NOB

Notes on Blindness: A Virtual Reality Experience*

Tue. 3/17 | 5:30-6:15pm or 6:30-7:15pm | NOB

Become a Dementia Friend

Wed. 3/18 | 6:30-7:30pm | FIS

Autism 101*

Thu. 3/19 | 6:30-7:30pm | FIS

Library 101: Intro to HEPL + Branch Tour*

Fri. 3/20 | 10-11am | FIS & Fri. 4/24 | 11am-12pm | NOB

Decluttering as Self Care: How to Begin*

Mon. 3/23 | 6-7:30pm | FIS



Enchanted Abodes: A DIY Fairy House Workshop*

Thu. 3/26 | 6-7:45pm | FIS

Cascadia & Beyond: An Earth Day Game Night

Tue. 4/21 | 5:30-7:30pm | NOB



Foraging for Morels with Hoosier Forager*

Thu. 4/23 | 5:30-7:30pm | FIS

Belle Musique

Valentine's Day Concert*

Sat. 2/14 | 2-3pm | FIS

Supported by the Friends of the Hamilton East Public Library.
All ages are welcome.

Computer Classes

Tech Time: Drop-in Assistance with Devices and Library Apps (No registration required)

Wed. 2/4 | 2-4pm | FIS & Thu. 2/19 | 2-4pm | NOB

Thu. 3/5 | 5-7pm | NOB & Mon. 3/16 | 2-4pm | FIS

Thu. 4/9 | 10am-12pm | FIS & Wed. 4/15 | 2-4pm | NOB

Microsoft Word Basics*

Mon. 2/9 | 2-3:30pm | FIS

Microsoft Excel Basics*

Thu. 2/26 | 2-3:30pm | NOB

Mon. 3/30 | 6-7:30pm | FIS

Apple iOS Basics: iPhone and iPad*

Mon. 3/2 | 10-11:30am | FIS

Introduction to Graphic Design Using Canva*

Tue. 3/3 | 6-7:30pm | NOB

Modern Resume Creation in Google Docs with AI Insights*

Thu. 3/12 | 2-3:30pm | NOB

Computer Basics: Windows 11*

Tue. 3/24 | 2-3:30pm | NOB

Navigating the AI Age with Confidence*

Tue. 4/7 | 6-7:30pm | NOB

Email Basics*

Thu. 4/16 | 10-11:30am | FIS

Protecting Your Privacy Online: Cybersecurity Basics*

Mon. 4/20 | 10-11:30am | NOB

Mobile Device Basics: Android*

Mon. 4/27 | 6-7:30pm | FIS

Online Job Search Basics*

Mon. 4/27 | 6-7:30pm | NOB

Internet Basics*

Wed. 4/29 | 6-7:30pm | NOB

Crossroads Discovery Center

Check the online events calendar for full event details at hepl.libnet.info/events. Programs with an asterisk (*) require registration.

G.A.B.- Genealogy Advisory Board

Thu. 2/5, 3/5, 4/2 | 2:30-3:30pm | NOB

Join Crossroads Discovery staff and Nancy Massey, Hamilton County Genealogist, for this lively discussion of all things genealogy.

Blast from the Past: The 1960s in Noblesville*

Wed. 2/11 | 6:30-7:30pm | NOB

In 1960, a film crew traveled to Noblesville to create a movie advertising the city. The preserved film is a showcase of late 1950s styles with both familiar and forgotten landmarks of Noblesville.

FamilySearch.Org: Search Party*

Sat. 2/28 | 11am-12pm | NOB

Make the most of your searches on FamilySearch.org! Don't be overwhelmed by the billions of records. Learn what can be found on FamilySearch and then discover some tips and tricks to go beyond a simple name search.



Christy Brocken. Photo by Sadie Hunter.

First Farmers at Strawtown Koteewi Park*

Thu. 4/16

6:30-7:30pm | NOB

Hamilton County Parks

and Recreation's Christy Brocken will explore the relationship between plant remains recovered from the archaeological record and how archaeologists theorize they were utilized by the people who originally cared for them here in Hamilton County and the surrounding areas.



Finding Secrets in Your Old Photos*

Sat. 3/7 | 11-12pm | NOB

Have you ever found a photo in your family collection and wondered about the date or location or even what the people are doing? This program will help you find information and sources that can help you to be a photo detective.

Working on the Railroad: Following the Tracks of Railroads and Family History in the U.S. *

Wed. 4/22 | 6:30-7:30pm | NOB

Learn about the development of US railroads and how they changed the way folks lived and worked. Discover valuable resources to use to research your railroading ancestors.



Saving My Family's Memories with Digital Media Labs*

Thu. 3/12 | 6:30-7:30pm | NOB

Learn about the equipment available in the CRDC to preserve your family history. Digitize slides, film negatives, VHS, 8mm and other formats to be able to watch, listen, and share them.

Newspapers.Com & PERSI: Search Party*

Sat. 3/28 | 11am-12pm | NOB

Learn how to access newspaper articles by using the library's database, Newspapers.com, and the PERSI index from home.



Join us throughout March for our annual Disability Awareness Month celebration as we raise awareness and share perspectives on the lived experiences of individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities in our community. Hosted by the Fishers Advisory Committee on Disability, this month-long celebration features a variety of special events and initiatives taking place across the city of Fishers. Highlights include the return of the Ally Campaign, which encourages residents to become active advocates for disability inclusion. Learn more at fishersIN.gov/DisabilityAwareness, and discover how the Hamilton East Public Library is participating through the featured events listed on the right.

Disability Awareness Month



Disabilities Awareness Exhibit | March 1 - 28

Part of the Fishers' Arts Council's March Disabilities Month celebration, this Ignite Studio exhibit promotes inclusion and highlights the creative abilities of all community members. This exhibit features art by individual artists and those affiliated with organizations providing services to individuals with disabilities.

Wax Resist Art with Teaching Artist Wendy Kiefel

Sat. 3/7 | 11am-12:30pm & 2-3:30pm | IGN

Learn step-by-step how to create images with crayon, ink and masking tape in this all-abilities class. Ages. 13+. Registration required.

Notes on Blindness: A Virtual Reality Experience

Tue. 3/17 | 5:30-6:15pm or 6:30-7:15pm | NOB

Join us for this award-winning narrative virtual reality experience using a Meta Quest 2 VR headset. Registration required.

Become a Dementia Friend

Wed. 3/18 | 6:30-7:30pm | FIS

Understand and appreciate the perspective of someone living with dementia and learn skills for more effective communication. Registration requested.

Autism 101

Thu. 3/19 | 6:30-7:30pm | FIS

Join Rachel Deaton to get a foundational understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), including common characteristics, communication styles, and sensory differences.

Neurodivergent Teen Hangout

Thu. 2/5, 3/5, 4/2 | 6-7pm | NOB

Thu. 2/19, 3/26, 4/16 | 5:30-6:30pm | FIS

Feb. & April: Game Night | March: Spring Fest. Registration required.

Ignite Studio

Check the online events calendar for full event details at hepl.libnet.info/events. Programs with an asterisk (*) require registration.

Learn about art through the many interpretations of mixed media during 1st quarter programming at Ignite. Mixed media refers to artwork that incorporates more than one medium or material. This encourages artists to experiment with various techniques, textures, and materials to blend and juxtapose elements.

Mixed Media Drop-Ins | All Ages

Lunar New Year Horse Puppets | Jan. 26 - Feb. 8

Love Bugs | Feb. 9 - 22

Collages Inspired by Howardena Pindell | Feb. 23 - Mar. 8
In celebration of Black History Month & Women's History Month

Mixing Media! | March 9 - 22

Embossed Paper Decorations | March 23 - April 5

Tissue Paper Flowers | April 6 - 19

Ignite Maker Lab in Noblesville

Get certified on equipment with these classes at the Maker Lab*:

Long Arm Quilting: Tuesdays

Direct to Garment/Film Printing: Alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Embroidery: Alternating Wednesdays and Saturdays

3D Printing: Alternating Thursdays and Saturdays

*Consult our Calendar of Events or contact the Maker Lab for times and more info.



Get Creative using Gelli Plates with Teaching Artist Jessica Green | Ages 13+*

Sat. 2/7 | 11am-12:30pm & 2-3:30pm | IGN

Sculpture with Paper and Wire | Ages 16+*

Sat. 2/21 | 11am-12:30pm | IGN

Tue. 2/24 | 6-7:30pm | IGN

Mixed Media Art Field Trip for Adults at Newfields | Ages 18+*

Wed. 2/25 | 11am-12:30pm | IGN

Wax Resist Art with Teaching Artist Wendy Kiefel | Ages 13+*

Sat. 3/7 | 11am-12:30pm & 2-3:30pm | IGN

Mixed Media and the Riso | Ages 13+*

Sat. 3/28 | 11am-1pm | IGN

Spring Break Art Lab:

Tissue Paper Prints-Chine Collé

Ages 8+*

Wed. 4/8 | 1-3pm | IGN



Printing Press Monoprints | Ages 16+*

Tue. 4/14 | 6-7:30pm | IGN

Sat. 4/18 | 11am-12:30pm | IGN

Surface Design on Wood with Teaching Artist Philip Ramilo | Ages 16+*

Sat. 4/25 | 11am-12:30pm & 2-3:30pm | IGN



This program is sponsored by the HEPL Foundation.

Saturday, March 21 | 9am-4pm

Showcasing the ways artists elevate and utilize Ignite's resources, Ignite Studio will host its third annual Make-Off. Selected artists will compete to make an original piece of art related to Ignite equipment, kits, or other in-house materials to highlight the creative possibilities involved in making. Artists will be given 6 hours to complete a work of art which will culminate in the awarding of monetary prizes. Patrons will be able to watch the process of creating art, take part in hands-on activities and participate in a patron art challenge. This year's theme is mixed media. Make your way to Ignite for an exciting and fun day!

Art activities for the public include:

- First 50 patrons receive art kits!
- Make your own mixed media artwork with our mini collage kits complete with shadow box frame.
- Add to our community assemblage wall.
- Create a layered metallic mandala with various materials.

Register to participate in our public Maker Challenge: Tissue Paper Prints-Chine Collé*

Ages 8 and up | 10am-12pm

All supplies provided

Art supply 'gift baskets' will be awarded in the following categories: Youth, Teen, Adult, and Adult & Child
Judging awards given out at 12:30pm

Don't Miss These Exhibits!

The 700 Collection Exhibit | February 28 - May 15

The 700s in the Dewey Decimal System is all about the arts. Stroll through the gallery to view a collection of work that celebrates many different mediums and genres within this classification. Join us for a reception on March 5th from 6-7pm to engage with the artists, participate in a themed activity and support local art. Winners of juried work will be announced, including Director's Choice.



Disabilities Awareness Exhibit | March 1 - 28

Part of the Fishers' Arts Council's March Disabilities Month celebration, this exhibit promotes inclusion and highlights the creative abilities of all community members. This exhibit features art by individual artists and those affiliated with organizations providing services to individuals with disabilities.

Maker Rally

The Hamilton County Libraries Maker Rally from February - April 2026 involves Carmel Clay Library's Digital Media Lab, Westfield Washington Library's Makerspace, and Hamilton East Library's Ignite Studio. Design, cut, and paint a wooden toy using resources at each of the libraries. Pick up a Maker Rally Zine at any of the branches to get more info and participate. All ages welcome.



Documentary Film Night: Waste Land*

Tue. 2/17 | 6-8pm | IGN | Ages 13+

Watch the documentary *Waste Land* (NR) featuring giant portraits created out of mixed materials from the trash. Filmed over nearly three years, *Waste Land* follows renowned artist Vik Muniz as he journeys from his home base in Brooklyn to his native Brazil and the world's largest garbage dump located on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro.

Crowning Together

How a Seed Library Helped a School Garden Bloom



Photo by Claire Robertson

From an underutilized outdoor space to a thriving hub of curiosity and color, the Sand Creek Elementary School (SCE) garden has become a living example of what can grow through collaboration and community support. Inspired by the groundwork laid by former staff and renewed by a shared vision among educators and students, the garden's revival took root with the help of the HEPL Seed Library. This partnership not only provided seeds, guidance, and expertise, but also opened the door to hands-on learning, student ownership, and a deeper connection to nature, proving that when schools and libraries grow together, the results can be both beautiful and educational.

Q: What inspired your school to start a garden, and how did the idea to partner with the HEPL Seed Library first come about?

The SCE garden was originally started by a dedicated group of former staff members, and we are excited to continue building upon the foundation they created. We cleaned up the outdoor garden space, shared new opportunities with our building staff, and worked together to create a plan to bring it back to life. With the gardens getting a spring refresh, we felt inspired to plant and bring new life to this space. We were familiar with the Seed Library, but it had been years since we accessed it and decided this was the perfect opportunity to revisit this wonderful community opportunity.

Q: Can you describe the process of collaboration with the library? Did they offer any guidance or resources that helped you plan your garden?

We reached out to the library to inquire about the steps and process to obtain seeds and were quickly greeted with a helpful voice and direction to go. We were given great suggestions and ideas to think about, including the types of plants, plants versus vegetables, and germination and growth time. We also discussed what plants were hardy, could tolerate the sunshine, and how much water they would require, which were all great suggestions as we knew summer break would occur during this window too. We appreciated the recommendations of plant types that would provide bright colorful blooms during the summer and into Back to School.

Q&A with
Jennifer Jacks,
SCE Counselor

Q: How did you set up the garden once you had received and prepared your seeds? What role did students play in caring for the garden throughout the year?

The garden design was intentionally simple so students could select the plants that interested them most. They also learned to think like gardeners—reviewing plant height, color, and overall compatibility with the raised beds before making their final choices.



Photo by Claire Robertson

Students were involved in planting from the very beginning—tending to repairs and adjustments of the raised garden beds, prepping soil, placing seeds, and labeling each bed. Throughout the remainder of the school year, identified classes rotated watering duties, monitored plant growth, and helped pull weeds or refresh soil as needed. Their hands-on care kept the garden healthy and growing. Students loved being outdoors—checking on the plants' progress, noticing the changes each week, and simply enjoying the fresh air and garden space.

Q: How has the garden and the Seed Library partnership impacted your school community?

Our partnership with the Seed Library is only beginning, and we're already seeing our garden come to life. After winter, we'll check to see what made it through the colder months and plan any new planting.

We're so fortunate to have this wonderful resource right down the road, and we are deeply appreciative.

With all the wonders and questions our students are asking, it's clear that we will most definitely continue expanding the garden and the learning it inspires!



The Seed Library has become one of the best loved collections the library offers. In 2025, HEPL lent out more than 88,000 seed packets. The many stories, successes, and photos you've shared guide our collection and demonstrate the impact the Seed Library has on our communities. There are two key dates to keep in mind for when seeds will be available. On **February 9**, select seed varieties will be available through the Seed Library. These varieties – such as tomatoes, oregano, and many native flowers – should be started indoors several weeks prior to planting outside since they require extra growing time in warm temperatures. On **March 9**, all the seeds will be available for checkout.

The Seed Library is sponsored by the HEPL Foundation.



Photos provided by Sand Creek Elementary

LIBRARY INFO

LOCATIONS

Noblesville Library

One Library Plaza

Noblesville, IN 46060

317.773.1384

Crossroads Discovery Center

317.770.3236

Ignite Maker Lab

317.770.3247

Fishers Library

Five Municipal Drive

Fishers, IN 46038

317.579.0300

Ignite Studio

317.579.0331

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday – Thursday

9:00 am – 8:00 pm

Friday – Saturday

9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Sunday

12:00 pm – 6:00 pm

FOLLOW US



hamiltoneastpl.org

LIBRARY CLOSURES

Friday, March 6 | Staff Day

Sunday, April 5 | Easter



HAMILTON EAST
PUBLIC LIBRARY

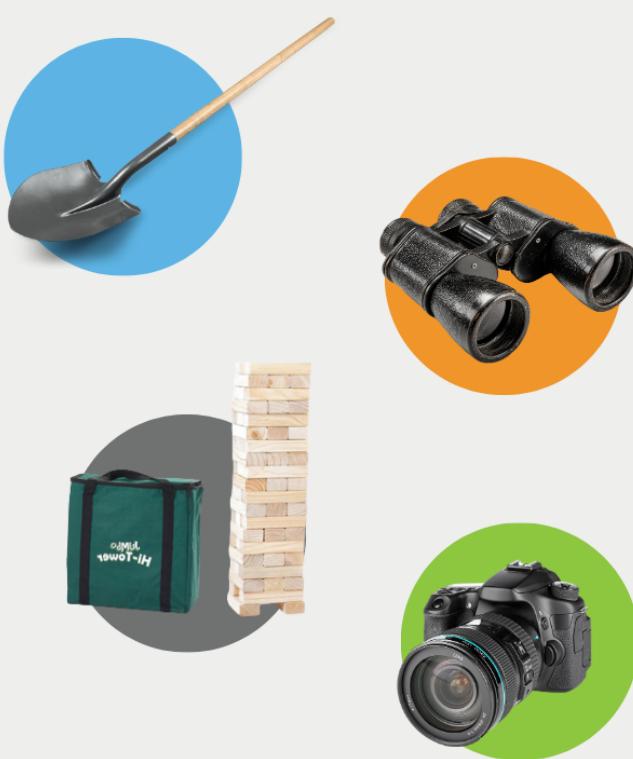


LIBRARY OF THINGS

at the Hamilton East Public Library

Borrow Specialty Items From the Library!

Hamilton East Public Library offers a special collection of non-traditional items, including yard games, media equipment, garden tools, all NEW memory care kits, and more!



Check out the Library of Things collection here:

