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Join SPL's Plant Swap!

Have extra plants or seeds? The Syracuse Public Library will host a swap from **12-4 p.m. Tuesday, May 26**, in the **downstairs meeting room**. Drop off plants and browse at 12 p.m. and then start swapping at 12:15 p.m.!

Participants should bring healthy plants without pests. Additionally,

don't bring invasive plants. We encourage swappers to label plants and include their water and light requirements.

SPL will have a seed swap corner, a native plants table, a vegetable plants table, and a houseplants table.

Go Digital

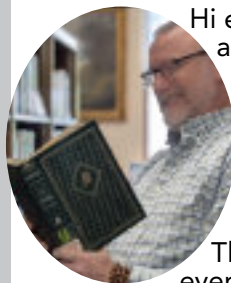
Sign up for Syracuse Public Library's monthly and/or weekly e-newsletter to receive the latest library news and learn more about events – including new events scheduled after the newsletter is printed.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/stcplnewsletter> to get started or scan the QR Code.

Check your spam folder because sometimes the emails go there.



Letter From The Executive Director



Hi everybody! This is Jon, and I'm excited to celebrate six months as your Syracuse Public Library Director. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this amazing community.

The library is a place for everyone — a welcoming space to learn, explore, and connect. One of the best parts of my job is seeing people coming and going, borrowing books and movies, and enjoying all we offer.

We're especially excited to introduce our upcoming Library of Things!

Cardholders, including Evergreen Indiana users, will soon be able to borrow items like a metal detector, adventure backpacks with an Indiana State Parks Pass, and a pass to Science Central in Fort Wayne.

We've also upgraded our technology, including computers and a new upstairs copier for printing, scanning, and faxing. Our previous copier is now downstairs for easier access, especially for families.

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Library Closings

This May, Syracuse Public Library will operate on reduced hours from 12-5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12. These hours will enable staff to hold a training in advance of summer reading.

Additionally, Syracuse Public Library will close Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. See you at the parade!



Children & Tweens

Summer Reading Prep In Progress!

The children's department might seem quiet during May, but that's hardly the case!

Staff will take a programming break as they decorate and prepare for summer reading! Each week when you visit the library, you will notice new things ... maybe some dinosaurs!

This year's program is "Unearth a Story" and will run from June 8 through July 18.

We'll have so many great programs for everyone to enjoy, plus prizes! Stay tuned for more details!



General Library News



Friends Hold Meeting

The Friends of the Syracuse Public Library will meet **at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 7, in the downstairs meeting room.** We invite all those interested in volunteering and helping the library to come. Since the meeting occurs before the library opens, knock on the Harrison Street door (nearest the staff parking lot) to enter.

Executive Director – Cont'd

Children's programs will pause in May as we prepare for our Summer Reading Program, which runs June 8 through July 18 for all ages. There are still plenty of activities happening, so be sure to check them out.

Libraries remain vital to our communities, but they face potential funding challenges in the coming years due to recent state legislation.

If you're able, please consider supporting the library through a donation to our Summer Reading Program or upcoming building project. Every bit helps, and we truly appreciate your support.

See you at the library! –Jon Gaskill

WACF Earth Day Festival



Swing by and say "hi" to Sarah at the WACF's 11th annual Earth Day Festival **from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at WACF Ruddell Pavilion, 11586 N. SR 13, Syracuse.**

This community festival brings together learning, stewardship, and hands-on fun and encourages visitors of all ages to explore how native plants, clean water, and healthy landscapes sustain life in our watershed.

[Find more information at wacf.com.](http://wacf.com)

Teens

Be On The Lookout For Amber!



During May, Amber will visit Wawasee High School, Wawasee Middle School, and Fairfield Junior-Senior High School! We encourage teens to stop by her table for free candy and bookmarks. She'll also share details about summer reading and the prizes teens can win for reading and attending programs!

Monthly Programs

YA CAFE

3:30-4:30 p.m. | Mondays | Rosalyn Jones Room
Come chill at the library! Play games on the library's Nintendo Switch, color, get homework help, and more during this hour.

YA WRITING CLUB

3:30-4:30 p.m. | Fri., May 8 | Rosalyn Jones Room
Teens who love writing are invited to the next cozy write-in! Need ideas or help to get started? We gotcha covered with writing prompts!

Get Custom Reading Recs

Teens (Grades 6-12) can sign up for book boxes, featuring library books selected based on your likes and surprise goodies. Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/splteenbookboxes>. Must have a library card.

YA CREATE WITH CANVA

3:30-4:30 p.m. | Thurs., May 14 | Rosalyn Jones Room
Create a free account that you can use to work on projects in school, decorate your room, or just to experiment with digital design!

YA CRAFT CORNER

5-6 p.m. | Thurs., May 21 | Rosalyn Jones Room
It's time to get crafting! This month teens will create friendship bracelets, or use supplies to create a craft of their own choosing.

YA ANIME CLUB

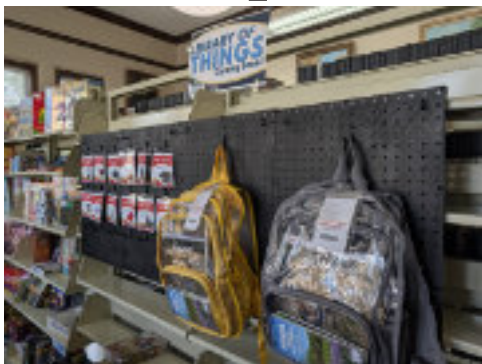
6-7:30 p.m. | Thurs., May 28 | Rosalyn Jones Room
The group will enjoy instant ramen and anime shows on HIDIVE! Teens will also discuss YA books with Japanese characters.

Resource Highlight

All-Ages Chess Club

All ages can attend Chess Club from 4-5 p.m. every Friday in the downstairs meeting room.

Library Of Things Rolls Out



Visitors to the Syracuse Public Library will see new things arriving in our Library of Things! Currently, you'll find our adventure backpacks, which include an Indiana State Parks pass, binoculars, and a microscope.

SPL's goal is to have all items available for checkout by June 1! The tags displaying impending arrivals are up. Take the time to browse and see what is coming. A Library of Things webpage is currently under construction at www.syracuse.lib.in.us/library-of-things.html.

Speaking of the Library of Things. You can check out a Science Central pass at the Syracuse Public Library for three days! The pass allows free entry for two adults (from the same address) and 6 children under the age of 18.

317 Materials

On April 9, 2026, patrons checked out 317 materials! That is the highest checkout day from Feb. 17 to April 16.

Within that time frame, patrons checked out an average of 161 materials each day! Pretty cool, right?

Source: Library IQ

Adults

May's Book Club Pick

The Adult Book Club will read "A Thousand Mornings: Poems" by Mary Oliver.

In "A Thousand Mornings," Mary Oliver returns to the imagery that has come to define her life's work, transporting us to the marshland and coastline of her beloved home, Provincetown, Mass. Whether studying the leaves of a tree or mourning her treasured dog Percy, Oliver is open to the teachings contained in the smallest of moments and explores with startling clarity, humor, and kindness the

mysteries of our daily experience.

Pick up copies at the Syracuse Public Library. Digital copies may also be available on Libby or require a hold.

The discussion will occur at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 28, in the downstairs meeting room.

For information or to recommend book club picks, email Hanna at hkunkel@syracuse.lib.in.us.



Learn To Make Lip Balm



Everyone needs lip balm. Shelly will show how to make custom options **from 5-6 p.m. Tuesday, May 26, in the library's downstairs meeting room.** The library will provide the needed supplies for this project.

Space is limited, so register at <https://tinyurl.com/lipbalm2026> or while visiting the library.

Recurring

MAHJONG

10 a.m.-12 p.m. | Mondays | Downstairs Meeting Room
Players of all skill levels are welcome at our mahjong tables.

MAHJONG

1-3 p.m. | Wednesdays | Downstairs Meeting Room
Players of all skill levels are welcome at our mahjong tables.

ALL-AGES CHESS CLUB

4-5 p.m. | Fridays | Downstairs Meeting Room
All ages can play chess together! The US Chess Fund has provided boards, and the library has added a chess clock for timed games.

Monthly

BECKY'S GARDEN WORKDAY

9-10 a.m. | Wed., May 13 | Becky's Garden
Lend a hand weeding Becky's Garden and learn about native plants. Garden tools welcome!

ADULT BOARD GAME NIGHT

5:30-7:30 p.m. | Thurs., May 14 | Downstairs Meeting Room
Adults can unwind and play new and classic board and card games, like "Scrabble," "Ticket to Ride," and more.

THE WORKSHOP

3-4 p.m. | Tues., May 19 | Downstairs Meeting Room
This writing group for adults aims to give attendees the building blocks to writing well, from story structure to character development.

IN THE GARDEN - RESCHEDULED WALK

1-2 p.m. | Thurs., May 21 | Oppenheim Woods, 7127-6929 N. Kalorama Road, Leesburg, IN 46538
In the Garden has rescheduled its walk at Oppenheim Woods to May. The group will hopefully still see ephemeral blooms in addition to other spring growth. The Woods is located across the street from Tippecanoe Lake Country Club. **Wear comfortable shoes for this walk!**

TREES & TEATIME

10:30-11:30 a.m. | Fri., May 22 | Downstairs Meeting Room
Bring your family trees and/or devices (plus questions) to enjoy a cozy hour of genealogy research accompanied by tea!

Library Hours

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday
12-8 p.m. Tuesday
10a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday

12-8 p.m. Thursday
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday



Scan for SPL's Online Calendar