THE FOUNTAIN

FOUNTAINDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



WINTER
2026–2027

Ultimate BOOK NERD Challenge

JANUARY 4–DECEMBER 19

Level up your reading goals for 2027! Challenge yourself to read 13, 25 or 50 books across 50 exciting categories with our new, yearlong reading program for teens in grades 6–12 and adults. We'll have prizes, meetups and recommendations along the way to keep you motivated and reading more. Sign up starting Monday, January 4!



ULTIMATE BOOK NERD CHALLENGE KICKOFF PARTY

Sunday, January 10
2–3 p.m.

Start your Ultimate Book Nerd Challenge on the right page. Join us at our kick-off event to learn all about the program and to get signed up. Enjoy snacks, get book recommendations, participate in a book swap and snag cool giveaways, while supplies last. Drop in.

For more information and to register, please visit fountaindale.org/ubnc.

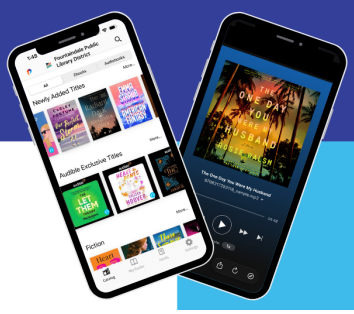


Early Learning Expo

Saturday, February 6 · 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Attention parents of future preschoolers! Join us for our annual Early Learning Expo to connect with local preschools and daycares. Explore, connect and discover library resources to support your child's early learning and development. Families can also enjoy a fun-filled puppet show and other interactive activities for little learners. Drop in.

Explore an extensive collection of eBooks and audiobooks with ease.



The Palace Project

What's Inside

Computers & Technology.....Page 4
Servicios en Español.....Page 7
Winter Reading Challenge.....Page 8
Black History Month.....Page 9
Adults.....Page 10
Teens.....Page 14
Children & Tweens.....Page 18
Community Outreach.....Page 22
Friends of Fountaindale.....Page 23

Event attendance constitutes consent to be photographed for publicity purposes. Notify staff if you do not wish to be photographed.



Studio 300 Hours

Monday–Thursday: 10 a.m.–8:30 p.m.
Friday–Saturday: 10 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 12:30–5:30 p.m.

Studio 300 opens at 1 p.m. on the last Monday of each month.

Create & Innovate in Studio 300

Take your maker projects to the next level with our DIY desktop fabrication machines and maker technology. To get started, complete your Studio 300 orientation to gain full access to our Maker Lab machines. Learn more at fountaindale.org/maker.

Our Machines:

- Brother ScanNCut
- Brother PE900 Embroidery Machine
- Brother PRS100 Embroidery Machine
- ELEGOO 3D Printer
- Laser Cutter
- Sawgrass Sublimation Printer & Mug Press
- Silhouette CAMEO
- Vacuum Former



Design Your Own 3D-Printed Jewelry R
Wednesday, December 9, 7 p.m.
Design your own custom jewelry using Tinkercad. You design it. We print it. What will you dream up? Jewelry will be available for pick up the following week.

Monogrammed Gift Bags R
Tuesday, December 15, 6:30 p.m.
Personalize your gifts with monogrammed gift bags, embellished on Studio 300's Brother PRS100 machine. Pair this class with our Design Your Own 3D-Printed Jewelry class for the perfect holiday gift.



Gee's Bend Improvisational Quilt Making

Tuesday, February 9, 6:30 p.m.

Get inspired by the historical and dynamic work of Black-American quiltmakers from Gee's Bend, Alabama. Discover the history of their quilt-making culture, which began as a need for survival but became an art form. Then learn improvisational patchwork techniques to create your own quilt blocks. Materials will be provided. Please bring your own sewing machine. Registration required.

TV & Video

ShortHaus Cinema D
Tuesdays, 7–8 p.m.
Join others in exploring and discussing the style, techniques and themes of a particular filmmaking auteur and their body of work in short films. You're invited to bring your own short films and videos—finished or in process—to be shared and critiqued.
December 1: Norman McLaren
February 2: Ava DuVernay



Smartphone Cinema R
Tuesday, January 19, 7 p.m.
Learn how to use that camera in your pocket to make professional-looking videos. You'll also get hands-on experience with Studio 300's plug-n-play phone gimbal for expert-level vlogs and b-roll.

Remix/Reuse Cinema 101 R
Thursday, January 21, 7 p.m.
Don't have any footage, but itching to edit? Watch examples of "found footage" media from music videos to shorts and cinema. Explore resources for locating stock, archival and other footage for your own project, and leave inspired to create something more abstract.



Family Winter Selfies

November 28–December 13

Visit Studio 300 to capture your holiday memories at our winter-themed selfie station. Share your photos with friends and family on holiday cards and social media. To reserve your one-hour time slot, call 630.685.4260.

No photographer will be provided. You can use your own phone or camera, or check out a camera if you've taken Studio 300 orientation. Orientation is not required to use the space.

Studio 300 Orientation

Gain access to Studio 300's full range of equipment and unique creative spaces by completing our online orientation. Once completed, and after gaining verification from Studio 300 staff, you can fully use all of our amazing resources. Start the virtual orientation anytime at fountaindale.org/orientation.

Please note, in addition to completing the orientation on their own, patrons ages 12–17 must have a parent/guardian complete the training and also grant permission before the youth has access to Studio 300.
Questions? Please contact Studio 300 at 630.685.4260.

Studio 300 Orientation & Tour
Tuesday, December 8, 7 p.m.
Get to know the Studio! Complete orientation to gain access to our full collection of equipment and software. Patrons ages 12–17 need a parent to complete the orientation with them.
Registration required.

Studio 300 Teen Orientation & Tour
Thursday, January 14, 7 p.m.
Ages 12–17 with a parent
Did you know teens can use Studio 300 with a parent's permission? Sign up with a parent for this in-person session! Both the teen and parent must attend to have orientation completion approved.
Registration required.

Photography

Photography Club D
Thursday, December 10, 6:30–8 p.m.
Join this club for photographers of all levels to learn, share and discuss photography.

Low Light Photography R
Tuesday, January 12, 7 p.m.
Learn tips and settings to help you take photos in challenging lighting situations. We will go over equipment and settings that will boost your confidence in low lighting. You may bring your own camera to learn which settings are most useful with your equipment.

Music & Sound



Portable Recording Setups with Studio 300 R
Thursday, February 4, 7 p.m.
Want to capture field recordings? An audio diary? What about an interview or podcast on location? Come and see different equipment setups that can be used to capture sound outside the studio.

Record Ready: Audio Setup for Beginners R
Tuesday, February 16, 7 p.m.
Curious about podcasting, music recording or voiceover work? Join us for a hands-on workshop where you'll learn how to create and use a basic audio recording setup. We'll cover microphone types, proper placement, sound levels and GarageBand basics to capture clean, professional audio.

Computers



COMPUTER CLASSES
6:30 P.M.

Join us for hands-on Microsoft Office and basic computer classes for beginners. Please bring a pen to take notes.

Tuesday, January 12: Excel
Wednesday, January 13: Word
Wednesday, January 20: Word (Intermediate)
Tuesday, February 9: Google Sheets
Thursday, February 11: PowerPoint
Tuesday, Febuary 16: Excel

Register at the 3rd Floor Service Desk, call 630.885.4176 or visit fountaindale.org/events.

Blockchain 101: Build the Chain R
Thursday, February 11, 7 p.m.
Discover how blockchain technology works. In this hands-on introduction, you'll learn about blocks, hashing and blockchain networks while building and testing a simple blockchain. No prior programming experience is required.



Illustration & Graphic Design

Introduction to Canva R
Tuesday, January 5, 7 p.m.
Learn graphic design basics and how to use Canva. We'll cover simple principles such as layout, color and typography to help you create your own clean, professional-looking project. Basic computer skills recommended.

Eventos para Adultos

Grupo Conversacional de Inglés de Literacy DuPage D
(Zoom)
Todos los Miércoles, 10–11:30 a.m.
Únase a un grupo de conversación para practicar Inglés en un ambiente relajado en Zoom. Los nuevos estudiantes de Inglés pueden llamar a Literacy DuPage a 331.472.7160 para un tutor en persona. (Sin registro previo.)

Orientación & Recorrido de Studio 300 R
Jueves, 17 de Diciembre, 7 p.m.
Conozca Studio 300. Complete la sesión de orientación para acceder a nuestra colección completa de equipos y software. Los usuarios de entre 12–17 años deben estar acompañados por un padre o tutor para realizar la orientación.

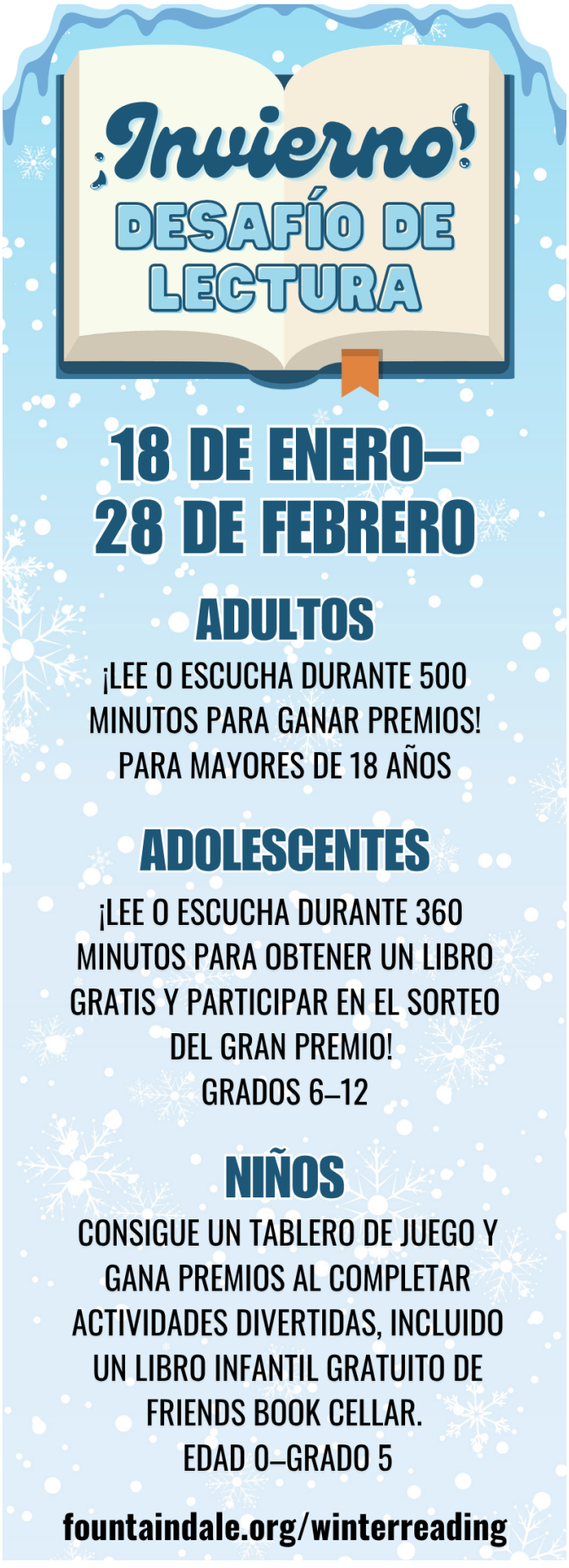
Artesanías en Español R
Jueves, 6 p.m.
Únase a nosotros para divertirse con emocionantes manualidades presentadas en Español. Se proporcionarán suministros. Para más información, visite la página **fountaindale.org/eventos**.
21 de Enero: Alas para un Nuevo Comienzo
11 de Febrero: Cantarito de Barro Pintado a Mano

Come Bien con Poco Presupuesto: Comidas Inteligentes, Saludables y Deliciosas D
Sábado, 20 de Febrero, 11 a.m.–noon
La dietista registrada Madeline Butler-Sanchez compartirá estrategias prácticas para planificar comidas económicas, hacer la compra, utilizar ingredientes a buen precio, reducir el desperdicio de alimentos y preparar comidas equilibradas sin sacrificar el sabor ni las tradiciones culinarias culturales. Se facilitarán recetas y ejemplos de listas de la compra.

Eventos para Niños y Familias



Noche de la Familia D
Lunes, 11 de Enero–26 de Abril, 6:30–7 p.m.
Únase a nosotros para una hora de cuentos bilingüe en Español, presentada por The Language Labs.



Winter Reading Challenge

JANUARY 18–FEBRUARY 28

ADULTS READ OR LISTEN FOR 500 MINUTES TO WIN GREAT PRIZES! AGES 18 AND OLDER

TEENS READ OR LISTEN FOR 360 MINUTES TO EARN A FREE BOOK AND ENTRY INTO THE GRAND PRIZE DRAWING! GRADES 6–12

CHILDREN PICK UP A GAME BOARD, AND EARN PRIZES AS YOU COMPLETE FUN ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING A FREE CHILDREN'S BOOK FROM THE FRIENDS BOOK CELLAR! AGE 0–GRADE 5

For more information, please visit fountaindale.org/winterreading.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Each February, we celebrate Black History Month to honor the rich culture and significant achievements of the Black community throughout history. Celebrate with the entire family all month long.
See page 21 for children and family events.

For Adults



Untangling the Roots: Culture of Black Hair Special Exhibit D
January 18–February 28
Visit the 3rd floor to view Untangling the Roots, a look at the history and culture that has defined beauty standards for Black hair from West African tribes to the 21st century. Discover how American mainstream culture, as well as the African American community, have influenced the views Black women have about beauty and their own image.

Israel Blackburn: Soldier, Settler and Village Founder R
Thursday, February 4, noon
Ages 55 and Older
Israel "Larry" Blackburn made a journey few could have imagined—one that began in slavery in Kentucky and ended in Downers Grove, Illinois, where he became one of the village's early founders. Marty Acks, President of the Downers Grove Historical Society, will present the enduring story of one man's perseverance, service and the promise of belonging.

Gee's Bend Improvisational Quilt Making R
Tuesday, February 9, 6:30 p.m.
Get inspired by the historical and dynamic work of Black-American quiltmakers from Gee's Bend, Alabama. Discover the history of their quilt-making culture, which began as a need for survival but became an art form. Then learn improvisational patchwork techniques to create your own quilt blocks. Materials will be provided. Please bring your own sewing machine.

Crowning Glory: The Roots of the Black Hair Industry D *(Zoom)**
Thursday, February 18, 6:30 p.m.
Join us for an inspiring lecture with The Whatnot Museum, highlighting the early trailblazers of the Black hair industry. Discover the stories of innovators who overcame poverty and discrimination to build thriving businesses and uplift their communities.

For Teens

DIY Masks: The Art of Kimmy Cantrell R
Wednesday, February 3, 4:30 p.m.
Create colorful cardboard masks inspired by the artworks of self-taught sculptor Kimmy Cantrell.

3D Paper Sculptures Inspired by Charles McGee D
Monday, February 8, 4–5 p.m.
Create a 3D paper sculpture inspired by celebrated artist Charles McGee, whose iconic sculptures, murals and artwork grace the city of Detroit and the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Gee's Bend Improvisational Quilt Making R
Tuesday, February 9, 4 p.m.
Get inspired by the historical and dynamic work of Black American quiltmakers from Gee's Bend, Alabama. Discover the history of their quilt-making culture, which began as a means of survival but evolved into an art form. Then learn sewing machine basics and improvisational patchwork techniques to create your own quilt blocks. Sewing machines and materials will be provided.

Teen Storytime: Black History Month D
Tuesday, February 16, 4–5 p.m.
Storytime doesn't have to end just because you're a teen. Relax and listen to staff as they read short stories by Black authors, new and old. Snacks provided.

Sneaker Art Inspired by Laolu Senbanjo D
Wednesday, February 24, 4–5:30 p.m.
Using Nigerian and Yoruba patterns and styles, design and decorate a one-of-a-kind sneaker art piece, inspired by Laolu Senbanjo, a visual artist and activist.



Arts & Crafts

Take-It Make-It Craft Kits
Available at the 3rd Floor Desk, while supplies last.
Tuesday, December 1: DIY Snowman Ornament
Saturday, December 26: New Year's Eve Sign
Tuesday, January 12: Paper Teapot
Tuesday, February 9: Long-Stem Rose



Needleworker's Group D
Tuesdays, December 1, 15, January 5, 19, February 2 & 16
10 a.m.–noon
Join us to work on cross-stitch, embroidery and counted canvas projects and to socialize and snack in a warm and friendly environment.



Knitting and Crocheters Nest D
Mondays, 6–8 p.m. &
Thursdays, 10 a.m.–noon
Join us to work on your knitting and crochet projects and to socialize and snack in a warm and friendly environment. *Please note, no event on November 2, December 24 & 31.*



Mini Embroidered Snowflake Keychains D
Monday, December 7
6:30–8 p.m.
Add a handmade touch to the season that's perfect for sharing and gifting. This beginner-friendly embroidery project can be attached to keys, backpacks or holiday gifts.



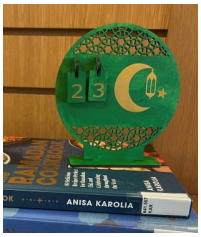
Pipe Cleaner Trees D
Tuesday, December 15, 6–8 p.m.
Spruce up your winter home décor with some fun, mini pipe cleaner trees! Add some glitz and baubles or leave it plain for a natural forest look.



Hand Sewing Basics: Simple Tote Bag R
Saturday, January 9, 1 p.m.
Learn the fundamentals of hand sewing in this beginner-friendly workshop. Practice basic stitches, sewing techniques and simple construction while creating a reusable tote bag.



Paper Crafting with Melisa R
Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
Join Melisa Martinez, paper crafter extraordinaire, for an evening of paper-based crafts.
January 11: *Starry Night* Pop-Up Card
February 8: 3D Bee Gift Box



Ramadan Countdown Calendar R
Monday, January 25, 6:30 p.m.
Build a keepsake that you can reuse year after year! Use paint and vinyl stickers to customize your very own laser-cut Ramadan countdown calendar. Teens welcome.



Winter Sky Watercolor Bookmarks D
Thursday, January 28, 6–8 p.m.
Capture the beauty of the winter sky with watercolor! We'll experiment with watercolor paint, wax resist and pen drawings to create a bookmark that calls to you in these cold winter months.



Hand Embroidery for Beginners: Houseplants Sampler R
Saturday, February 13, 2 p.m.
Learn some basics of hand embroidery by creating a simple beautiful sampler. No experience required. Some materials will be provided. You will receive a purchase list of items to bring to class.



Pal-entine's Wine Glass Painting D
Wednesday, February 17, 6–8 p.m.
Paint your own wine glass for Valentine's Day, or bring your pals and follow your heart to paint something new.



Braided Heart Keychains and Friendship Bracelets D
Tuesday, February 23, 6–8 p.m.
Learn how to braid a heart-patterned keychain, pin, bag charm or friendship bracelet.

Reading, Writing & Publishing



Visit fountaindale.org/bookclubs to view our book club selections. Titles will be available at the 3rd Floor Desk one month before the book club meets.

Chills & Thrills Book Club D
Wednesdays, December 2, January 6 & February 3
3–4 p.m.
Get chilled and thrilled with a good mystery.

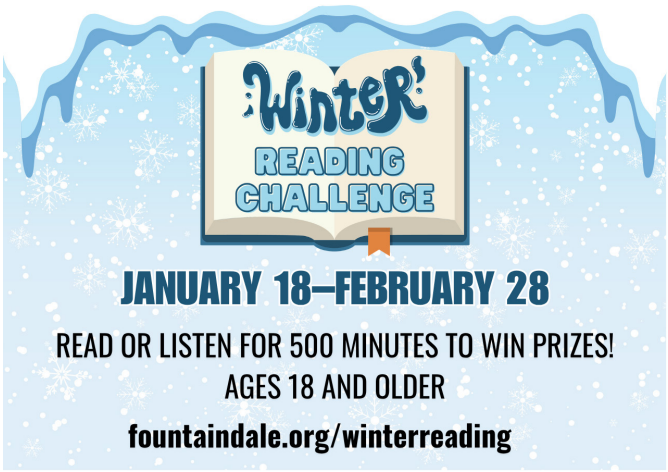
X Meets Y Book Club D *(Zoom)*
Saturday, December 5, 2–3 p.m.
Looking to discuss exciting books with other 20- and 40-somethings? This book club is for you! Join us on Zoom!

Coffee & Conversation Book Club D
Tuesdays, December 15, January 19 & February 16
10:30–11:30 a.m.
Looking for something to wake you up in the morning? Join us for a stimulating morning book discussion.

Great Reads Book Club D
Wednesdays, December 16, January 27 & February 24
7–8 p.m.
Join us to discuss the latest book chosen by the group. We read fiction, mystery, biography, history and everything in between.

Silent Book Club D
Thursday, January 14, 7–8 p.m.
Arwa Yemeni Coffee, 704 E. Boughton Road
Join us for a silent book club. Bring your own book or choose one of ours to read. We'll have giveaways, too! Relax, read and feel free to purchase a delicious drink.

Love Lit Book Club D
Monday, February 15, 7–8 p.m.
Join us to talk about fun and flirty romance titles.



Winter Writing Retreat D
Thursday, December 3, 6:30–8 p.m.
Join us for a writing retreat designed to bring writers together, as we celebrate this year's writing achievements and look forward to the New Year.

The Perfect To-Do List for You D
Thursday, January 7, 7–8 p.m.
It's the start of a new year and you are planning on doing so much, but how do you keep track of all those tasks and keep yourself accountable? We'll talk about different strategies you can use to maintain your focus on your 2027 goals!

Fountaindale Writers D
Thursdays, January 28 & February 25, 7–8 p.m.
Meet other writers, share tips, get encouragement, and celebrate the art of writing. New members are always welcome. No registration is required.

How to Write a Love Poem R
Thursday, February 11, 7 p.m.
Valentine's Day is coming up. Focus on someone you really love, and put into words something special to make their day or to remind you of how special they are to you.



Registration opens three weeks before each program date, unless otherwise noted.

Just for Seniors

Join us for these special events just for adults ages 55 and older. A light lunch will be provided. Registration closes one day before each event. Drop-ins are welcome but are not guaranteed a lunch.

Cracked Christmas with Dave Rudolf R
Thursday, December 3, noon
Enjoy a live performance featuring hilarious Christmas parodies from Dave Rudolf's new album *Tropical Christmas*.

The History of Elvis Presley R
Thursday, January, 14, noon
Join us for a birthday celebration for the King of Rock and Roll. Elvis revolutionized popular music when he exploded onto the scene in 1956 with his unique blend of rhythm & blues and country music. His energetic performances, distinctive voice and charismatic persona made him a worldwide cultural icon.

Israel Blackburn: Soldier, Settler and Village Founder R
Thursday, February 4, noon
Israel "Larry" Blackburn made a journey few could have imagined—one that began in slavery in Kentucky and ended in Downers Grove, Illinois, where he became one of the village's early founders. Marty Acks, President of the Downers Grove Historical Society, will present the enduring story of one man's perseverance, service and the promise of belonging.



Monday Social Mahjong D
Mondays, 1–4 p.m.
American mahjong is a fun and social tile-based game that combines strategy, skill and a bit of luck. Whether you're new to the game or looking to sharpen your skills, join us to learn the rules, practice gameplay and enjoy friendly competition with fellow players. All experience levels are welcome.

Health, Sports & Fitness

R&B Line Dancing R
Sundays, December 6, January 24 & February 28
3 p.m.
Join the Lines N' Motion dance team for a session of our popular R&B Line Dancing program.

Meditation for Health and Wellness in the New Year R
Wednesday, January 6, 11 a.m.
Umesh Bhatia, a long-time meditator and meditation instructor, will share tips for a healthy lifestyle and strategies for a more balanced life. Join us to begin the New Year with a fresh start.

Eat Well on a Budget: Smart, Healthy & Delicious Meals D
Saturday, January 16, 11 a.m.–noon
Learn practical strategies for planning affordable meals, grocery shopping, using budget-friendly ingredients, reducing food waste and building balanced meals without sacrificing flavor or cultural food traditions.



Paint & Plant Wellness R
Tuesday, January 19, 6 p.m.
Utilize hands-on creative therapy with a pot paint kit and plant while learning about the mental health and well-being benefits of art and nature.

Genealogy, History & Culture

Genealogy Club R *(Zoom)*
Wednesdays, 11 a.m.
January 13: Unique African American Records
February 10: Finding Immigration and Naturalization Records: Advanced Strategies and Techniques

Hands-on History: Killing the Buzz: The Lost Story of Yaupon Tea R
Monday, January 18, 6:30 p.m.
Join us for a special craft activity and lecture for National Hot Tea Month. Learn how our Indigenous "Liberty Tea" suffered centuries of marginalization due to global corporate interests and an unfortunate botanical name.

Movies, Music & Entertainment



BHS Madrigals Holiday Performance D
Sunday, December 13, 1 p.m.
All Ages
Join us for an afternoon of festive music, beautiful harmonies and holiday cheer. Bring your family and friends and enjoy this special performance by our talented student singers from Bolingbrook High School.

The Making of A Christmas Story R *(Zoom)*
Thursday, December 17, 7 p.m.
A Christmas Story debuted more than 40 years ago, but every year, millions of Americans still love to watch the beloved film. Join historian Leslie Goddard for a look at how this holiday movie came to be and why it has become such an enduring seasonal favorite.

Film Club R
Tuesdays, December 29, January 26 & February 23
7 p.m.
Love talking about movies? This movie club is for you. At the beginning of each month, we pre-select a film, so you have ample time to watch it before the meeting. Then we'll gather to critique and discuss the film in-depth.

Hamilton Musical Birthday Sing-Along D
Sunday, January 31, 1–4:30 p.m.
Help us celebrate the ten-dollar founding father with a birthday party and musical sing-along to the smash Broadway hit *Hamilton*.

Podcasts and Pastimes R
Thursday, February 18, 6:30 p.m.
Calling all creatives! Come in for a sensory friendly session where we listen to a podcast and doodle, journal, write, draw or any other creative hobby you want to bring along with you. This is a chill session to work and mingle. No pre-listening or homework required! This month's episode is *Philosophize This! Romeo and Juliet*.

Business, Career & Finance

New Market, New Goals: Home Buying & Selling in 2027 R
Tuesday, January 5, 11 a.m.
Kick off the year by discussing the housing market outlook, interest rates, buying and selling trends and how you can create a personalized real estate plan for the year.

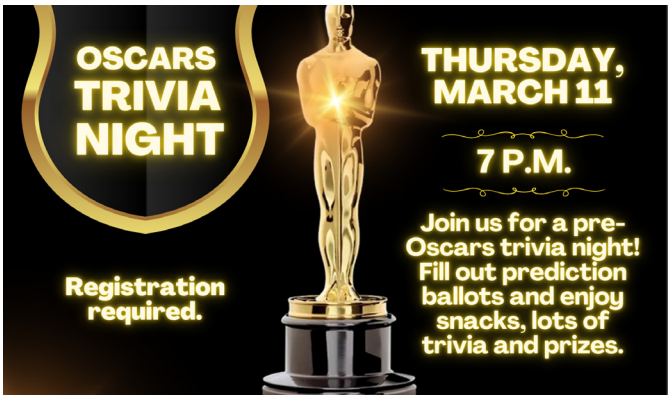
Home & Lifestyle

Crafting Herbal Mocktails R
Thursday, January 7, 6 p.m.
Marcy Lautanen-Raleigh of Backyard Patch Herbs will present a masterclass on the art of herbal mocktails, demonstrating how to make simple syrups, herb extractions and flavorful bitters. These are great drinks to enjoy during Dry January or as a health-forward option for the New Year ahead.

Cooking with Chef Maddox R
7 p.m.
Learn to cook amazing meals that are sure to impress your friends and family. Recipes will be provided.
Tuesday, January 26: Seasonal One-Pot Meals
Wednesday, February 10: Romantic Three-Course Menu

Sewing with Kellie Chase R
10 a.m.
Learn how to sew a variety of projects. Please bring a sewing machine, thread, scissors and pins. All other supplies will be included. Please have some basic knowledge of your sewing machine.
Friday, February 5: Tool Roll Up
Monday, February 8: Spring Mini Quilt

How to Use a Sewing Machine R
Sunday, February 7, 12:30 p.m.
Learn how to use your sewing machine with Kellie Chase. Bring in your machine to learn simple tips and tricks to get the most out of your sewing equipment.



Registration opens three weeks before each program date, unless otherwise noted.

TEENS

All programs are for teens in grades 6–12 unless otherwise noted.



Vortex Hours

Monday–Thursday: 2–8:30 pm.
Friday: 2–5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Sunday: noon–5:30 p.m.

The Vortex will open at 11 a.m. on Valley View School District holidays. Visit the 2nd Floor Desk to browse the collection outside of regular hours.

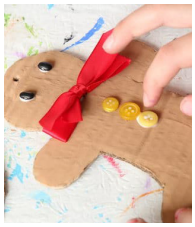
Gaming & Contests

Virtual Reality Game Play D
Tuesday, December 1, 4:30–6 p.m.
Ages 12–18
Explore virtual reality through exciting games and immersive experiences. Whether you're dodging obstacles or battling in a virtual arena, this is your chance to test out VR tech and have a blast with friends—no experience needed!

Trading Card Afternoon D
Thursday, January 7, 4–5 p.m.
Want to learn how to play Pokémon or Magic: The Gathering? Here is your chance to learn the rules, test your deck against other players and trade cards with fellow fans.

Pokémon-Themed Escape Room R
Monday, February 22, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.
Team Rocket has lured you into their secret base and kidnapped your Pokémon. Can you escape and rescue your Pokémon before time runs out? All are welcome to participate; no prior Pokémon knowledge is required.

STEAM & Maker Fun



Cardboard Gingerbread Houses R
Monday, December 14, 4 p.m.
Use Studio 300's xTool P3 to laser cut and construct your very own cardboard gingerbread house.



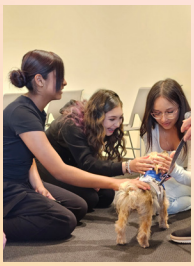
DIY Zodiac Planetarium R
Tuesday, January 12, 6 p.m.
Construct a cardboard planetarium and light up your space with your favorite star signs!



The Engineering Workshop D
Wednesday, January 20
4–5:30 p.m.
Put your engineering skills to the test! Join us for a hands-on maker session where you'll build catapults and mini archery sets.

Finals Week
December 7–13

The end of the semester is almost here! Stop by the library to study, take a break and gear up for finals. Swing by the desk, answer a trivia question and spin the prize wheel! Limit one spin/prize per teen per day, while supplies last.



Paws & Unwind with Love on a Leash D
Monday, December 7, 4–5 p.m.
De-stress with friendly therapy dogs from Love on a Leash! Chill out, recharge and enjoy some quiet comfort as you gear up for the end of the semester.



Keep Calm & Craft On D
Thursday, December 10
4–5:30 p.m.
Finals got you stressed? Take a brain break and make your own emotional support chicken, picky pad or DIY Fuggler to get you through the week.

Arts & Crafts



Beaded Pride Tapestry D
Thursday, December 3, 4–5 p.m.
Show your pride! Create mini tapestries from pony beads and dowel rods to hang anywhere.



Chain Pull Painting R
Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 p.m.
Create wings, plant leaves, flowers and other shapes by pulling chains through easy-flowing paint.



Book Binding Basics R
Wednesday, December 16, 6 p.m.
Grades 4–8
Make your own journal or sketchbook as we learn how to make our own hardcover books!



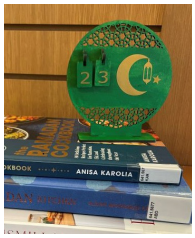
Bead Buffet Workshop R
Thursday, December 17, 6 p.m.
Design and create your own custom jewelry in this hands-on creative experience with Journey & Thingz.



Snow Globe Art R
Thursday, January 14, 6:30 p.m.
Make a framed snow globe art piece you can shake! We'll use watercolors to create a wintry background for a paper-collage snowman.



DIY Print Making R
Thursday, January 21, 6 p.m.
Grades 9–12
Want to start a satisfying and easy hobby? Learn how to make awesome stamps that you'll carve from Linoleum, an eraser-like material. No art skills required, just a little bit of patience!



Ramadan Countdown Calendar R
Monday, January 25, 6:30 p.m.
Build a keepsake that you can reuse year after year! Use paint and vinyl stickers to customize your very own laser-cut Ramadan countdown calendar. Adults welcome.



Teen Paint Party: Shooting Stars R
Saturday, January 30, 2 p.m.
Want to try your hand at painting a beautiful work of art? Join us for an afternoon of fun and creativity as we paint a themed art piece. All experience levels are welcome.



Handmade with Love D
Tuesday, February 2, 4–5:30 p.m.
Treat your bestie or someone special to a handmade gift! We'll make a terracotta gumball machine, pipe-cleaner roses and more.



Button Art R
Thursday, February 4, 6 p.m.
Grades 4–8
Use buttons to create a textured, multimedia art project.



Textured Heart Art R
Thursday, February 11, 6:30 p.m.
Combine paint and paper to fill in concentric hearts to complete this piece of art.



Felted Koala R
Wednesday, February 17, 6 p.m.
Learn the art of needle felting with Natasha Lehrer Lewis of Esther's Place by creating your own adorable felted koala.



Beaded Suncatcher R
Saturday, February 27, 2 p.m.
Combine memory wire with an array of colorful, mix-and-match beads to create your own custom suncatcher.

Registration opens three weeks before each program date, unless otherwise noted.

Volunteering

Book Recommendations
Do you need volunteer hours? Submit book reviews to earn service hours. We're looking for book recommendations from our teen readers to post on Instagram. Visit fountaindale.org/teenvolunteer to recommend your favorite books. You'll receive one service hour for every recommendation you submit.



Cards for Hospitalized Kids D
Saturdays, December 5, January 9 & February 6
3–4 p.m.
Volunteers will create handmade cards and send encouragement to kids in need. All cards will be sent to Cards for Hospitalized Kids (CFHK) to brighten someone's day.

Teen Volunteering R
Saturdays, December 12 & January 16, 3 p.m.
Volunteer your time by preparing crafts and materials for programs, assisting in organizing and/or cleaning program supplies, photocopying, cutting paper and more. We also need volunteers for special events. View all of our opportunities at fountaindale.org/events.

Character Pen Pals R
Sundays, December 20 & February 14, 3 p.m.
Help answer letters from our youngest patrons, writing as their favorite characters. You'll write encouraging, personalized responses in the voice of popular characters like Bluey, Dog Man or Mo Willems' Pigeon.

Doll Care & Refresh R
Sunday, January 24, 3 p.m.
Help care for our library's doll collection as you prepare our dolls for their next checkout. Tasks include sanitizing the dolls, redressing and styling hair. Braiding experience is a major plus!



Teen Volunteering Day

Monday, February 15
Join us for a day of volunteer opportunities to give back to your community. You may only volunteer for a maximum of three hours.

Cards for Hospitalized Kids D
11 a.m.–noon
Create handmade cards and send encouragement to kids in need. All cards will be sent to Cards for Hospitalized Kids (CFHK) to brighten someone's day.

Chutes and Ladders R
12:30 p.m.
Help children play a giant version of Chutes and Ladders by supervising activity stations around Children's Services.

Doll Care & Refresh R
1:30 p.m.
Help care for our library's doll collection as you prepare our dolls for their next checkout. Tasks include sanitizing the dolls, redressing and styling hair. Braiding experience is a major plus!

Teen Volunteering R
3:30 p.m.
Prepare crafts and materials for programs, assist in organizing and/or cleaning program supplies and more.

TEEN LIBRARIAN-IN-TRAINING

Join our librarian-in-training program, where you'll create a display to share your favorite library finds with your friends. You will be assigned a month to shop the shelves for your go-to titles to add to your display. Beginning November 2, submit an application at fountaindale.org/lit to start earning volunteer hours, library swag and a behind-the-scenes experience at your library.

Reading & Writing

Teen Reads
Looking for something to read? Our Teen Services staff is here to help. Check out Teen Book Bites on Instagram, TikTok and YouTube.

Visit fountaindale.org/teenreads to browse our handpicked collection of books perfect for teens. Covering a wide range of genres and topics, there's something here for everyone! Find more recommendations on our blog or Instagram.

Ultimate Book Nerd Challenge
January 4–December 19
Level up your reading goals for 2027! Challenge yourself to read 13, 25 or 50 books across 50 exciting categories with our new, yearlong reading program for teens in grades 6–12 and adults. We'll have prizes, meetups and recommendations along the way to keep you motivated and reading more. Sign up starting Monday, January 4! For more information and to register, visit **fountaindale.org/ubnc.**

Ultimate Book Nerd Challenge Kickoff Party D
Sunday, January 10, 2–3 p.m.
Start your Ultimate Book Nerd Challenge on the right page. Join us at our kick-off event to learn all about the program and to get signed up. Enjoy snacks, get book recommendations, participate in a book swap and snag cool giveaways, while supplies last.

Tales & Treats R
Thursdays, January 28 & February 18, 4:30 p.m.
Grades 6–8
Dive into exciting stories, graphic novels and can't-put-down adventures! Hang out with fellow readers, talk about books and enjoy tasty treats at our middle-grade book club.

Books & Bites R
Thursdays, January 28 & February 18, 6 p.m.
Grades 9–12
Let's talk books! Join us to discuss your favorite teen fiction, nonfiction and graphic novels, get recommendations and enjoy tasty snacks!

PASSPORT TO FRANCE
Tuesday, January 19, 4:30 p.m.
Bonjour! Learn and practice basic French conversation phrases and enjoy some tasty snacks. Registration required.





Movies, Music & Entertainment

Teen Movie Friday D
Fridays, December 4, 18, January 8, 22, February 5 & 19, 3–5 p.m.
Join us in the Vortex to watch the latest and greatest teen-friendly movies!

Anime Afternoon R
Wednesdays, December 9, January 13 & February 10
4:30 p.m.
Hang out in the Vortex while we watch anime, talk about manga and enjoy Japanese snacks!

Conchas & Cocoa D
Tuesday, December 15, 4–5:30 p.m.
Looking for a sweet way to unwind? Customize your own pan dulce with colorful icing as you sip on hot chocolate or atole. Then kick back to watch a movie, hang out with friends or test your skills in a fun group game!

Winter Break Movie Marathon D
Mondays & Tuesdays, December 21, 22, 28 & 29
2–6 p.m.
Chill in the Vortex during winter break and watch some of your favorite movies and more!

Broadway Sing-Along R
Wednesday, January 27, 6 p.m.
Grades 4–8
Hang out while you sing your heart out! Join us for an evening of show tunes and Broadway-inspired crafts.

Hamilton Musical Birthday Sing-Along D
Sunday, January 31, 1–4:30 p.m.
Help us celebrate the ten-dollar founding father with a birthday party and musical sing-along to the smash Broadway hit *Hamilton*. Adults welcome.

Registration opens three weeks before each program date, unless otherwise noted.

CHILDREN & TWEENS

Events are for children of all ages unless otherwise noted. Children's Services offers more programs than just the ones in this program guide! Visit fountaindale.org/events, or pick up a paper calendar from our desk for the full list of children's programs that are available.

Storytimes D

Storytimes run January 11 through May 1 and are for all ages unless otherwise noted. Drop in; no registration required.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
Baby Storytime 9:30–9:50 a.m. Ages 0–18 months	**Baby Storytime** 9:30–9:50 a.m. Ages 0–18 months	**Baby Storytime** 9:30–9:50 a.m. Ages 0–18 months	**Baby Storytime** 9:30–9:50 a.m. Ages 0–18 months	
Storytime 10:30–11 a.m.	**Storytime** 10:30–11 a.m.	**Storytime** 10:30–11 a.m.	**Storytime** 10:30–11 a.m.	**Storytime** 10:30–11 a.m.
Storytime 11:15–11:45 a.m.	**Storytime** 11:15–11:45 a.m.	**Storytime** 11:15–11:45 a.m.	**Storytime** 11:15–11:45 a.m.	
Noche de la Familia 6:30–7 p.m. Presented by The Language Labs	**Sensory Storytime R** 6:30–7 p.m.	**Storytime** 6:30–7 p.m.	**Storytime** 6:30–7 p.m.	

Community Storytimes

Community storytimes are best suited for children ages 2–6, but all children are welcome to attend. Children must be accompanied by an adult. For questions, please call Outreach Services at 630.685.4230.

IKEA Storytime R
Wednesdays, December 2, January 6, February 3
10:15 a.m.
IKEA, 750 E. Boughton Road
Join us in the Swedish Restaurant for stories and songs. IKEA will provide milk and cookies for each child after our stories are complete. Registration opens two weeks before each event date. Register at **fountaindale.org/ikea** or in person at each event. To register online, you must first create a free IKEA Family account.

Storytime at the Illinois Aviation Museum D
Saturday, December 5, 9:30–10 a.m.
Illinois Aviation Museum
130 S. Clow International Parkway
Soar on over for a fun and engaging plane-themed storytime. Don't forget to check out all of the interactive exhibits in the museum once storytime ends.

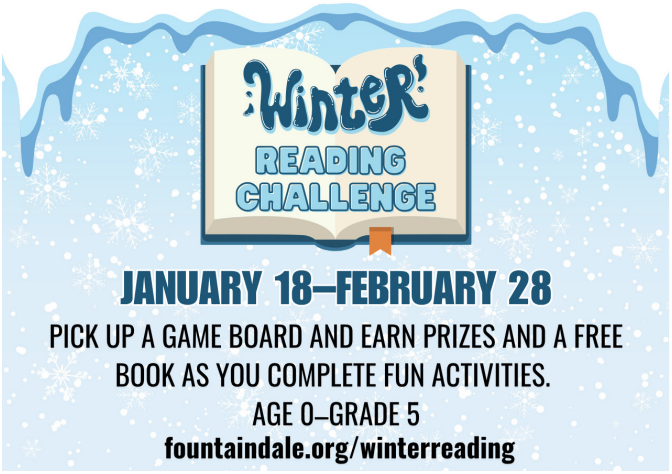
Storytime at the Museum D
Thursdays, December 10, January 14 & February 11
9:30–10:30 a.m.
Bolingbrook Historical Museum, 444 E. Briarcliff Road
Spark your child's imagination with stories, songs and other fun activities. Storytime is geared towards preschoolers but great for all ages. Admission is free.

Arwa Yemeni Coffee Storytime D
Mondays, December 14, January 11 & February 8
9:30–10:30 a.m.
Arwa Yemeni Coffee, 704 E. Boughton Road
Bring your little ones to storytime at Arwa Yemeni Coffee. Enjoy a special, fun-filled hour of stories and literacy activities.

Storytime at Wholey Granoly R
Tuesday, December 15
Thursdays, January 28 & February 25
9:30 a.m.
Wholey Granoly, 714 E. Boughton Road
Join us for a free, engaging storytime experience for your little ones. Each child will receive a special treat when our stories are complete. Registration opens two weeks before each event date.

Chick-fil-A Storytime D
Thursdays, December 17, January 21 & February 18
9:30–10:30 a.m.
Chick-fil-A, 245 N. Weber Road
Enjoy preschool stories, puppet plays and songs.

Reading & Writing



NEW! Beginner Book Bundles
Beginning readers can now check out book bundles with books and treats just for them! Each bundle contains four books about popular subjects, like Friends & Family or Wild Things. To sweeten the deal, each bag has a color-changing pencil, bookmark and toy to keep! Visit Children's Services to take one home!

Fall Writers Showcase D
Tuesday, December 8, 6–7 p.m.
Support our young writers! Our fall Writing Café participants will read their creations aloud to family and friends at this celebratory showcase.

Writing Café: Winter Ghost Stories R
Tuesday, December 22, 4:30 p.m.
Grades 2–5
Warm up and pass the time by drinking hot cocoa while writing your very own spooky story, then read it around the campfire—if you dare!

Writing Café R
Tuesdays, January 26 & February 23, 4:30 p.m.
Grades 2–5
Stretch your imagination and work together to create unique stories in this monthly writing workshop.

Fun for Families

Cocoa & Coloring R
Wednesday, December 23, 2 p.m.
Join us for a cozy cup of cocoa while you color!

Sensory Night: Vroom Vroom! D
Tuesday, January 12, 5:30–7 p.m.
Neurodivergent kids and children with physical disabilities, start your engines! We'll have activities exploring things that go vroom and 2027's first Sensory Storytime at 6:30 p.m.

Mush! Sled Dog Racing R
Monday, January 18, 1 & 3 p.m.
What does it take to lead a team of sled dogs through the Alaskan tundra? Find out from Musher Karen Land and her Alaskan husky, Sophia! Please only register for one show.

Giant Chutes and Ladders D
Monday, February 15, 1–3 p.m.
Grades K–5 with an adult
Children's Services has become a giant game board! Take on unique challenges that decide if you "climb" ahead or "slide" behind in this fun game of Chutes and Ladders!



Pre-Eid Party D
Saturday, February 27, 11 a.m.–noon
Join us during Ramadan to make Eid cards and crafts for friends and family!

KID LIBRARIAN-IN-TRAINING

Join our librarian-in-training program, where you'll create a display to share your favorite library finds with your friends. You will be assigned a month to shop the shelves for your best-loved titles to add to your display. Beginning November 2, submit an application at **fountaindale.org/lit** to get library swag, a book vending machine token and a chance to feature your picks in the library and on the Bookmobile.

Registration opens three weeks before each program date, unless otherwise noted.

Wonderful Winter Events

LEGO Club D
Saturdays, December 12 & February 13, 1–3 p.m.
Bolingbrook Historical Museum, 444 E Briarcliff Rd
Grades 1–5
Head to the Bolingbrook Museum for some LEGO fun! You can build with friends or try one of our building challenges. We supply the bricks and you supply the imagination. Don't miss our LEGO Land Party on January 9!

Snowed In! Gingerbread STEM Challenge R
Monday, December 21, 2 p.m.
Grades 1–5
WARNING! A snowstorm is headed to Children's Services! Can you build a gingerbread house that will weather the storm?

DIY NeeDoh Toys R
Monday, December 28, 2 p.m.
Grades 3–5
Experiment with different recipes to make your own squishy fidget to take home.



Minions & Monsters Movie and Craft D
Wednesday, December 30, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Grades K–5
Bello! Create a Minion-themed craft while enjoying their newest movie, *Minions & Monsters*!



KPop Demon Hunters Celebration D
Monday, January 4
1–2:30 p.m.
Grades K–5
Help us keep the Honmoon golden! Enjoy *KPop Demon Hunters* snacks, crafts and songs at this drop-in celebration!

Responsible Pet Ownership R
Tuesday, January 5, 2 p.m.
Grades K–5
Join Will County Animal Protection Services to learn how to feed, clean and care for your pets, and then make a fun, animal-themed craft!



LEGO Land Party D
Saturday, January 9, 1–3 p.m.
Bolingbrook Historical Museum, 444 E. Briarcliff Road
Join us for a brick-tastic celebration filled with LEGO-themed activities, games, creative challenges and plenty of fun!

STEM Ice Fishing R
Wednesday, January 20, 4:30 p.m.
Grades K–5
Learn about the science of ice! We'll build fishing huts, see what we can catch with magnets and try a hands-on experiment.

Wet Felting: Lunar New Year Luminary R
Wednesday, February 17, 4:30 p.m.
Grades 3–5
Use locally grown wool to create a lantern with Natasha Lehrer Lewis of Esther's Place.

Tweens & Teens

Grades 4–8

Book Binding Basics R
Wednesday, December 16, 6 p.m.
Make your own journal or sketchbook as we learn how to make our own hardcover books!

Broadway Sing-Along R
Wednesday, January 27, 6 p.m.
Hang out while you sing your heart out! Join us for an evening of show tunes and Broadway-inspired crafts.

Button Art R
Thursday, February 4, 6 p.m.
Use buttons to create a textured, multimedia art project.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Bessie Coleman's School of Little Aviators D
Monday, February 1, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Age 3–Grade 5
Aspiring pilots, test your problem-solving skills and determination! After passing our flight tests, earn your own Little Aviator License and more!

Tyree Guyton's Neighborhood D
Monday, February 1, 2–3:30 p.m.
Grades K–5
Paint a mini house and decorate with found objects like Tyree Guyton's Heidelberg Project. Display it at the library, and take it home in March.



Making the Spider-Verse R
Wednesday, February 3, 4:30 p.m.
Grades K–5
You may not have been bitten by a radioactive spider, but you can still make your own spider webs! Create spider slime and other activities to celebrate Miles Morales.

Augusta Savage Sculptures R
Tuesday, February 9, 4:30 p.m.
Grades K–5
Explore the Harlem Renaissance through the eyes of a young Augusta Savage. Sculpt with clay to make your own unique piece of art!

The Art of Black Maskers R
Tuesday, February 16, 4:30 p.m.
Grades 1–5
Who's that in all the feathers? Learn about the New Orleans tradition of Black Maskers in Mardis Gras parades, then create your own elaborate mask.

For the Culture: Black Magazines R
Thursday, February 18, 4:30 p.m.
Grades 4–5
Try hands-on activities as we explore what goes into making a magazine like *Essence* and *Jet*.



Crowning Glory R
Monday, February 22, 4:30 p.m.
Grades K–5
Celebrate your hair with a special storytime, activities and more!

Romare Bearden Art Collage R
Wednesday, February 24, 4:30 p.m.
Grades K–5
You might have seen Romare Bearden's collages on display at the Art Institute of Chicago! Learn about his technique and use found images and patterns to create your own collage.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Outreach Services provides library services to our community's preschools, elementary schools, community centers, senior centers, neighborhoods and events.

Home Delivery Service

Patrons of all ages who reside within the Fountaindale Public Library District are eligible for Home Delivery Service if they are confined to their residences either temporarily due to illness or accident, or permanently due to illness, disability or other mobility issues. Parents may also use this service during their child's first year of life. Upon request, Outreach staff can also provide help with selecting materials and locating information on a specific topic. Patrons who qualify may request books, audiobooks, DVDs, Playaways, magazines, music CDs and more! For questions or to sign up for Home Delivery Service, please contact Outreach Services at 630.685.4230 or outreach@fountaindale.org.



New Bookmobile Stops

Visit the Bookmobile at these two new community stops to check out books, movies, video games and more! Pick up your holds, return items and explore our sensory kits, memory care kits, Rokus, mobile hotspots, Wazoodles and more. Drop in to enjoy fun activities for the whole family!

Arwa Yemeni Coffee
Mondays, December 14, January 11 & February 8
10–11 a.m.
Arwa Yemeni Coffee, 704 E. Boughton Road
Don't miss storytime at 9:30 a.m.

Chick-fil-A
Wednesdays, December 16, January 27 & February 24
9–10 a.m.
Chick-fil-A, 245 N. Weber Road

Exciting Events



Self-Care Saturday on the Bookmobile D
Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Target, 1188 W. Boughton Road
Step inside the Bookmobile for a chance to get away and select a special spa kit, while supplies last. Besides items to help you relax and rejuvenate, you'll get to choose a free book to enjoy! Discover calming music from Freegal Music+ and have a little laugh with one of the many comedies from Kanopy, all free with your library card! Stop by to take a little time for you!



Good Morning, Bolingbrook! D
Wednesdays, December 16, January 27 & February 24
10:30–11 a.m.
Best Buy, 315 N. Weber Road
Good morning, Bolingbrook! Are you out and about on Wednesday mornings? After you grab your coffee, head over to the Bookmobile to pick up a donut on us! We'll be here with some of the newest bestsellers, popular movies, video games and of course, a friendly smile to start your day!

Early Learning Expo D
Saturday, February 6, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Attention parents of future preschoolers! Join us for our annual Early Learning Expo to connect with local preschools and daycares. Explore, connect and discover resources to support your child's learning and development. Families will enjoy a fun-filled puppet show and other interactive activities for little learners.

FRIENDS OF FOUNTAINDALE



The Book Cellar & Book Nook

Support the **Friends of Fountaindale Library** by visiting the Book Cellar on the lower level of the library and purchasing items in two rooms full of gently used fiction and nonfiction books in good-to-excellent condition.

Book Cellar Hours:
Tuesday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Thursday: 4–8 p.m.
Sunday: 1–5 p.m.

You can also purchase books and other materials from the Book Nook located on the 1st floor next to Meeting Room A. The Nook is regularly stocked by the Friends, and you can pay for your purchases at the Circulation Desk. Cash or check payments only in both the Book Cellar and Book Nook.

Donations

The Friends of Fountaindale are looking for donations to add to the Nook and Book Cellar. If you have gently used books to donate, please bring them to the Information Desk in the lobby.

Please visit **fountaindale.org/donations** for more information, including a list of items the Friends will not accept.

How Do the Friends Support the Library?

The Friends of Fountaindale Library have provided financial support for library materials, services and events for more than 40 years.

You can make a difference by becoming a Friend of Fountaindale! Please consider supporting your library by simply completing and returning the membership form with payment to the library or Bookmobile.

APPLICATION FOR FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

Return this form with payment to the Book Cellar during store hours, or mail it with a check (payable to Friends of Fountaindale Library) to:

Friends of Fountaindale Library
300 W. Briarcliff Road
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Please indicate your membership level:

- ☐ Student $2/year
- ☐ Senior (age 60+) $4/year
- ☐ Fountaindale Employee $4/year
- ☐ Individual $6/year
- ☐ Family $10/year
- ☐ Business/Organization $40/year
- ☐ Lifetime $100 (One-time payment)

Please print clearly:

_____
Name

_____
Address

_____
City, State, ZIP

_____
Phone

_____
Email

Thank you for supporting the Friends!

Thank you to the Friends of Fountaindale for supporting us!

FOUNTAINDALE
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

300 W. Briarcliff Road, Bolingbrook, IL 60440
630.759.2102 • fountaindale.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bolingbrook, IL
Permit # 00074

*********ECRWSSEDDM****

Residential Postal Customer
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Library Closings

Christmas Holiday
Thursday, December 24
Friday, December 25

New Year's Holiday
Thursday, December 31
Friday, January 1

Library Hours

Mon–Thu: 9 a.m.–9 p.m.
Fri–Sat: 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
Sun: noon–6 p.m.

Book Drops

Library main entrance and north side
Ashbury's, 335 E. Boughton Road
First Presbyterian Church, 180 N. Weber Road

Holds Pickup Lockers

Library main entrance
Bolingbrook Recreation and Aquatic Complex (BRAC), 200 Lindsey Lane

Board of Trustees

Celeste M. Bermejo, President
Marcelo Valencia, Vice President
Bobby Armstrong, Secretary
Kathryn J. Spindel, Treasurer
Meraj Alam, Trustee
Jim Daunis Jr., Trustee
Sarah M. Siska, Trustee

Board Meetings

Third Thursday of each month; 7 p.m.
Held at the library; open to the public

Executive Director

Paul Mills
630.685.4157
pmills@fountaindale.org

2025-2026 Annual Report Now Available

Check out our highlights from the year! Scan the QR code, visit fountaindale.org/annualreport or pick up a copy inside the library.



SCAN ME