

Check It Out

A PUBLICATION OF LICKING COUNTY LIBRARY

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LCL

LICKING
COUNTY
LIBRARY



The adult winter reading program returns beginning January 2!



Register using the Beanstack app to log your reading minutes, attend events, and complete activities to earn digital raffle tickets for a chance to win one of ten \$50 gift cards to area businesses.



SCAN THE
QR CODE TO
SIGN UP!

Mobile Library Schedule

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

MONDAY

1/5, 2/2

- Heath • Ramp Creek Community
3:30 – 4pm
- Heath • Villa Vista Mobile Homes
4:15 – 4:45pm
- Heath • Amber Mobile Home Park
5 – 5:30pm

1/12, 2/9

- Johnstown • Kroger | 3:15 – 3:45pm
- Johnstown • Clover Valley Chapel CCCU
4 – 4:45pm
- Johnstown • Kyber Run Circle | 5:15 – 5:45pm

1/19, 2/16

- Newark • Glenbrook Dr. | 4 – 4:45pm
- Newark • Potters Grove | 5 – 5:30pm
- Newark • Newark Village Apts. | 5:45 – 6:15pm

1/26, 2/23

- Newark • Reddington Rd. S | 3 – 3:30pm
- Newark • Reddington Village Condos
3:45 – 4:15pm
- Newark • Shalimar Dr. | 4:30 – 5pm
- Newark • Look Up Ctr. | 5:15 – 6pm

TUESDAY

1/6, 2/3

- Heath • Park Lanes | 3:15 – 3:45pm
- Heath • Woodland Ct. | 4 – 4:30pm
- Heath • Fox Run Dr. | 4:45 – 5:15pm

1/13, 2/10

- Pataskala • Liberty Park | 3:15 – 4pm
- Pataskala • Summit Ridge Estates | 4:15 – 5pm
- Pataskala • Woodington Dr. | 5:15 – 6pm

1/20, 2/17

- Heath • Hopewell Commons | 3:15 – 3:45pm
- Heath • Glenwood Condos | 4 – 4:30pm
- Heath • Willow Ridge Dr. | 4:45 – 5:15pm

TUESDAY CONT.

1/27, 2/24

- Pataskala • Citizens Park | 4:15 – 5pm
- Pataskala • Woodington Dr. | 5:15 – 6pm

WEDNESDAY

1/7, 2/4

- Newark • California Concept | 3 – 3:45pm
- Newark • Mary Ann Twp. Fire Dept.
4 – 4:30pm
- Utica • Utica High School | 5 – 5:45pm

1/14, 2/11

- Buckeye Lake • CRT Realtors by Water's Edge CC
3:15 – 4:15pm
- Hebron • Sunset Dr. | 4:30 – 5:15pm
- Buckeye Lake • First Community Church
5:30 – 6pm

1/21, 2/18

- Newark • Welcome Rd. | 3:10 – 3:55pm
- Newark • Irish Ln. | 4 – 4:45pm
- Newark • Meadowland Dr. | 5 – 5:45pm

1/28, 2/25

- Pataskala • Summit Glen Rd. | 4 – 4:30pm
- Pataskala • Autumn Wy. | 4:45 – 5:15pm

THURSDAY

2/5

- Newark • Grove St. (lot behind E Main St Gazebo)
3:30 – 4:15pm
- Hanover • Hainsview Dr. | 4:30 – 5:15pm
- Newark • Blessed Sacrament School
5:30 – 6:15pm

1/8, 2/12

- Newark • Condominiums at Northtowne
11 – 11:45am
- Brownsville • Brownsville Christian Life Center
4 – 4:30pm
- Thornville • Deer Trail Dr.
4:45 – 5:30pm

THURSDAY CONT.

- Jacksonstown • Eagle Wings Academy
5:45 – 6:15pm

1/15, 2/19

- Buckeye Lake • Goodwill | 3 – 3:45pm
- Buckeye Lake • North Shore Boat Ramp
4 – 4:45pm
- Buckeye Lake • Harbor Hills Country Club
5 – 5:45pm

1/22, 2/26

- Perryton • Licking Valley Rd. | 4 – 4:30pm
- Toboso • The Well | 4:45 – 5:15pm
- Hanover • Legacy Park | 5:30 – 6pm

FRIDAY

1/23, 2/17

- Newark • Sharon Glyn Senior Apts.
10 – 10:30am
- Heath • Bill E. Mitchell Retirement Village
11am – 12pm
- Newark • The Village on Main | 12:30 – 1pm

Inclusive Programs

Downtown Newark



Next Chapter Book Club

JAN 6, 20, FEB 3, 17 | 12PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

A unique community-based book club for adults with Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Adventures in Art

JAN 6, FEB 3 | 1PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS & TEENS

A time for adults and teens with disabilities to explore arts and crafts while practicing self-expression.

Making Memories Monday

JAN 19, FEB 16 | 2PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Enjoy making memories while connecting with others in your community! Participate in activities like art, games, and music while socializing. Individuals with memory loss, such as dementia, and their caregivers are encouraged to engage in this program.

Pen & Games

JAN 29 | 5PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS & TEENS

Vote to have a creative writing workshop, play board games, or a mix of both! Adults and teens with disabilities are invited and encouraged to bring a notebook, some writing samples, and game favorites, but it's not necessary to bring anything. Games (including braille options) and creative exercises are provided.

Mobile Care Now Clinic

JAN 26 | 10AM-4PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Behavioral Health Partners (BHP) of Central Ohio's Mobile Care Now Clinic (MCNC) and its certified behavioral health professionals are visiting our Downtown Newark location in the front parking lot. BHP's certified behavioral health professionals can assist adults and youth (ages 5+) experiencing mental health and addiction distress. This is an effort to bridge the gap between the needs of our communities and access to quality behavioral healthcare.

Johnstown (Mary E. Babcock)

ESL Speaking Club

FEB 5 | 4PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Practice speaking English in a relaxed environment. This is a conversation club for adults who do not speak English as their first language and want to enhance their communication skills. This program is facilitated by LCL's Inclusive Services Coordinator.

Off Site

ESL Speaking Club

JAN 15, FEB 19 | 4:30PM

COTC PATASKALA

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Practice speaking English in a relaxed environment. This is a conversation club for adults who do not speak English as their first language and want to enhance their communication skills. This program is facilitated by C-TEC's ESOL Coordinator/Instructor and LCL's Inclusive Services Coordinator.



Downtown Newark



Early Readers Club

MONDAYS | 4PM

DESIGNED FOR EARLY LEARNERS



Early Readers Club is a small reading group for preschoolers and kindergartners that focuses on early literacy skills. Through stories and activities, children practice recognizing letters, working on reading comprehension, and learning new vocabulary words.



Elementary Readers Club

MONDAYS | 4:45PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY



Elementary Readers Club is a small reading group for children in first through third grade that focuses on developing literacy skills. Through stories and activities, children practice reading aloud, improving reading comprehension, and learning new vocabulary words.



Youth Classics Book Club

TUESDAYS | 4:15PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Sharpen your skills through discussion, vocabulary development, and creative thinking with your peers. Participants vote on the chapter book the group reads. If you miss a week, don't worry, we will catch you up. Newcomers and emerging or independent readers are welcome.

Ready for Kindergarten

THURSDAYS | 10:30AM

DESIGNED FOR EARLY LEARNERS

Focusing on a new skill each week, we introduce literacy-based activities to help participants become successful readers and begin their educational journey into kindergarten. Designed for ages 3-5.

Wordsmith Workshop

JAN 7, FEB 4 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Join a welcoming community of writers at your Library! Whether you're a seasoned author or just starting out, our writing club offers a supportive space to share your work, receive constructive feedback, and spark creativity. Each session includes writing prompts and group discussions. Come connect with fellow storytellers and let your words flourish.

Fairy Science

JAN 8 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Join us for a magical workshop on fairy science with The Works: Ohio Center for History, Art, and Technology!

Anime Club: Emoji Guessing Game

JAN 12 | 5PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Do you think you know anime? Play an anime guessing game in the Discovery Center where we'll use emojis as clues.

Romantasy Book & Craft Club

JAN 13, FEB 9 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS



Do you love fantasy mixed with your romance? This is a book club where discussions and making a craft go hand in hand. Copies are available at the Downtown Newark location and may also be accessed digitally.

January: *The Knight and the Moth*

by Rachel Gillig

February: *Tress of the Emerald Sea*

by Brandon Sanderson



Writers' Workshop

JAN 14, 28, FEB 11, 25 | 1:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

A writing workshop designed for homeschooled. Discuss various elements of the writing process with a focus on imagination. Get ready to fine-tune your creative writing skills!

Game On!

JAN 15 | 5:15PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Do you love to play board games like Catan, Clue, or Candy Land? Do you ever wonder what it takes to make your own? In this creative, hands-on program, you'll become a game designer! We will brainstorm ideas and themes for your own original board game; design game rules, objectives, and player pieces. You will leave with a playable prototype using craft materials and recycled supplies. Designed for kids grades 4-6, and a great opportunity for families. Feel free to bring photos or other ideas from home!



EXTRAterrestrial Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club

JAN 15, FEB 19 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Discuss the month's book with your fellow earthlings! Copies are available at the Downtown Newark location and may also be accessed digitally.

January: *Never Let Me Go*

by Kazuo Ishiguro

February: *Death of the Author*

by Nnedi Okorafor

Yarn Club

JAN 19, FEB 16 | 4:30PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Learn to knit or crochet and hang out with a group. All skill levels are welcome. You bring the needles or hook; we'll supply the yarn!

Rethinking Research

JAN 21 | 3:30PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Learn research basics and use those skills to compete against each other for prizes. Contestants will have a Library laptop to use and basic instructions regarding credible sources. They will then race for the first correct answer, for example: "Which of these two foods has a higher sodium content, potato chips or pretzels?" The first to correctly answer and provide a credible source wins the item!

Downtown Newark cont.

Understanding Medicare

JAN 22 | 3PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Struggling to understand Medicare? A presenter from the Ohio Department of Insurance provides a clear and unbiased overview of Medicare. Learn about the different parts of Medicare, coverage options, and how to make informed decisions about your healthcare. A Q&A session will follow the presentation, giving you the opportunity to ask questions and get reliable answers from a trusted source.

Toothpaste Batik

JAN 22 | 4:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Create a fabulous, frameable piece of art with toothpaste and lotion, also known as toothpaste batik!

Tunes and Tales

JAN 24, FEB 28 | 11AM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Your family's musical adventures begin here! Newark-Granville Symphony Orchestra musicians share their favorite stories, songs, and musical games in a series that introduces your young listeners to the instruments of the orchestra. These fun, interactive concerts are approximately 35-45 minutes in length and are appropriate for preschool through 6th grade.

January: *Trombone Shorty* by Troy

Andrews with Ryan Vo, Denison University student composer & the NGSO Trombone Quartet

February: *Where the Wild Things Are* by

Maurice Sendak with Wyatt Fabyanske, Denison University student composer

Tea Exchange

JAN 24 | 1PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

For those who have too many tea bags laying around and want to try new flavors, now is your chance! Bring in your tea bags and get a chance to sample new types of tea. Make sure to bring your own mug so you can sample other teas!

VITA Tax Preparation

MONDAYS BEGINNING JAN 26 | 10AM-7PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Free tax preparation and e-file for federal, state and school district forms. Most taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of \$69,000 or less are eligible. Schedule an appointment by calling Licking County Coalition for Housing at 740.345.1970, ext. 200.

Winter Sowing

JAN 26 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

In this hands-on workshop presented by Pollinator Pathway of Licking County, participants will learn how to grow plants from seed utilizing the winter sowing method. This easy and inexpensive seed-starting method utilizes repurposed containers to create mini-greenhouses that are placed outdoors during the winter months and produce seedlings to transplant later in spring. Winter sowing is a great way to start many native plants that require cold conditioning in order to germinate. All registered participants will be able to take home a mini greenhouse with native plant seeds to begin this year's gardening!

Pre-K Art Play

JAN 27, FEB 24 | 10:30AM

DESIGNED FOR EARLY LEARNERS

Enjoy different mediums and create art in this messy, hands-on encounter where process over product is emphasized.

LEGO® Family Challenge

JAN 27, FEB 24 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Complete challenges by building with LEGO®s! Families of all ages are welcome; please register just once for your entire group.

Unbox the Library

JAN 27 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Unpack all the Library has to offer and learn about our services and resources!



Booked to Death

JAN 28, FEB 25 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Calling all armchair sleuths! Join fellow mystery lovers in unraveling thrilling tales and puzzling plots. Each month, participants vote on the next book selection, ensuring everyone has a say in the adventure. Copies are available at the Downtown Newark location and may also be accessed digitally.



Cutting the Cord

JAN 29 | 1PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Using the internet to stream TV and movies has become very popular over the past several years. In this class, our Techsperts introduce the basics of streaming, what equipment is needed, what services are available, and how to get local channels.

You Are the Missing Piece!

JAN 29 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

You are the missing piece to our family puzzle race! Teams or families will race to complete a 400-piece puzzle as fast as they can. Spots are limited, so register your team today! Please register just one time for your entire team; teams should be between 3-6 people.

Friendship Bracelets

FEB 10 | 5PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Celebrate love by making friendship bracelets together!

Paper Flower Bouquets

FEB 11 | 4:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Make a flower bouquet out of paper for someone you love (even yourself)!

Magical Miniature Worlds

FEB 12 | 5PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Let your imagination run wild as you create your own tiny world—a terrarium to take home.

Celebrate Our Black Superheroes!

FEB 12 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Come learn about black superheroes: both real and fictional. Get book recommendations, participate in trivia and possibly win a prize.

A Valentine Mystery to Die For!

FEB 13 | 3PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

What happens when Friday the 13th and Valentine's Day fall on the same weekend? It's murder! You have been selected to solve a Valentine's murder mystery. Literary clues will guide you in your search for evidence as you race to solve a murder mystery before the Library closes. The first person or team to solve the mystery will collect a reward!

Interactive Movie: Toy Story

FEB 16 | 1PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Bring your kids to enjoy an interactive screening of *Toy Story*, where they'll become part of the adventure. Join Woody, Buzz, and friends to bring the movie to life!

Taking Charge of Your Health

in 2026

FEB 17 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

As we kick off the new year, start it right by learning healthy eating habits. Shari L. Gallup, M.S., CHWC, an assistant professor at The Ohio State University Newark Extension, will be discussing ways to eat healthy.

College Toolkit Talks

FEB 18 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Thinking about college? An Ohio State University librarian will share insider tips on using college libraries, finding research resources, and getting ready for academic life. Whether you're heading to campus soon or just curious, this program will help you feel confident and college-ready!



Get to Know Apple

FEB 19 | 1PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Join us as our Techspert covers the basics of your Apple device, showing you how to organize your home screen, find and adjust settings, navigate the App Store, and download apps.

Animalia

FEB 19 | 4:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Celebrate the animal kingdom with games, crafts, and prizes. For entry, bring two quick facts about your favorite animal. Get a bonus prize if you know the name of an endangered species.

Yoga with Ashley: Jenny's Winter Walk

FEB 21 | 11:30AM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Certified children's yoga instructor, Ashley, takes us on a story time-inspired yoga session featuring the picture book *Jenny's Winter Walk*. Together we will stretch, breathe, and move through the pages of the story. Perfect for warming up a body and mind during the chilly season! Please bring a yoga mat or towel and wear comfortable clothing.

Don't Fall For That!

FEB 26 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

In this day and age, criminals and people with bad intentions are smart. The best way to combat them is to learn how they operate. Learn how to spot AI scams and misinformation in this wonderful presentation by Denison Professor of Computer Science, Dr. Matt Kretchmar.

Daily at 10:30am

Mondays

Utica

Tuesdays

Johnstown (Mary E. Babcock)

Tuesdays

Downtown Newark (ages 3-5)

Wednesdays

Downtown Newark (Tots and Twos, birth-2)

Wednesdays

Lakewood

Thursdays

West Newark (Emerson R. Miller)



Johnstown (Mary E. Babcock)

Read with Andrew!

MONDAYS | 3:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Come meet your new favorite reading buddy, Andrew! He's a Pet Partners certified therapy dog and a very good boy who loves when kids read to him. Visit him in our children's area—he cannot wait to see you!



Beanstack: Challenge Accepted!

JAN 6 | 1PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Discover how to participate in the Library's 2026 Adult Winter Reading Challenge using Beanstack. Our Techspert will show you how to create an account and join the challenge. You will learn how to log books, write reviews, and complete badges to earn tickets to enter for prize drawings.

Light Switch Cover Craft

JAN 6 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Make an ornament to spruce up your room by decorating a switch plate with book pages.

Airplane Origami

JAN 7 | 3:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Join us for an afternoon of origami airplane crafting and competition! Learn the art of precise paper airplane engineering and participate in distance and skills events. Earn your pilot's license and fly high with your new origami expertise!



Babcock Book Club

JAN 8, FEB 12 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Copies are available at the Johnstown (Mary E. Babcock) location and may be accessed digitally.

January: *The Briar Club*

by Kate Quinn

February: *When the Day Comes*

by Gabrielle Meyer

Teen Craft & Chat

JAN 13, 27, FEB 10, 24 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Bring your current crafting project to work on and chat with other crafty people. We'll have supplies available if you want to start a new project or learn a new skill. All creative types are welcome, from sketchbooks and watercolor to knitting and crochet. We even have a sewing machine!

Paint Party with Scott Ashbrook

JAN 14 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Warm up with a relaxing, guided painting session led by local artist Scott Ashbrook. All supplies will be provided, just bring your enthusiasm and prepare to create a beautiful winter aurora borealis.



Any Book Book Club

JAN 19, FEB 16 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Join other book lovers to talk about your latest reads. Instead of an assigned book, read whatever you'd like and come ready to discuss it.

Writers' Cafe

JAN 20, FEB 17 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Calling all aspiring teen writers! Bring your story ideas or latest drafts; be ready to share your work, commiserate about writer's block, and learn new tricks of the trade—all while sipping tea or hot chocolate.

Architects of Fun!

JAN 21, FEB 18 | 3:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Join our Architects of Fun group for monthly meetups of engineering play. Try your hand at the featured activity, or freeform something all your own, celebrating your imagination! We'll display our Architects' masterpieces in the Library throughout the month until the next club meeting!

January: LEGO® creations

February: K'nex® construction

Library Play Date

JAN 23, FEB 27 | 10:30AM

DESIGNED FOR EARLY LEARNERS

Play is a crucial part of building literacy and social skills, so join us for a monthly play date at the Library! We will provide opportunities for imagination and skill building, plus socialization for both children and caregivers.



AARP Tax Prep

FEB 3, 10, 17, 24 | 10AM-4:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

AARP professionally trained volunteers prepare federal, state and local tax returns for low and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those sixty and older, by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 740.641.2387 from 8:30am - 4pm, Monday through Friday. AARP is looking for friendly volunteers to join their Tax-Aide team and will provide training and support. Call 999.227.7669 for more information.

Show & Tell

FEB 3 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Bring in a fun collection, interesting keepsake, or project you're proud of and show it off to the group. Share what you're excited about and learn what hobbies or objects make others happy, too.

Valentine Thumbprint Magnets!

FEB 4 | 3:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Join us to make fun and festive Valentine's magnets! Easy to construct and sure to become family favorites, capture little thumbprints and accessorize your fridge, all in one!

Trivia Night!

FEB 19 | 6:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Are you excellent at trivia? If so, it is your time to shine! Please join us for Trivia Night at the Library and show off your smarts!

Lakewood



Beanstack: Challenge Accepted!

JAN 8 | 1PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Discover how to participate in the Library's 2026 Adult Winter Reading Challenge using Beanstack. Our Techspert will show you how to create an account and join the challenge. You will learn how to log books, write reviews, and complete badges to earn tickets to enter for prize drawings.

Meditation Boxes

JAN 10 | 11AM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Ease into the new year stress-free by creating your own toolbox of tranquility. Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere as you decorate a mediation box to fit your personality and fill it with items that create calm and spark joy.

Simple Suminagashi

JAN 15 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Transform a piece of white copperplate paper into a vibrant work of art. Used in Japan as early as the 12th century, Suminagashi uses floating ink to marble a piece of paper, creating delicate patterns of color and design. Learn basic techniques and leave with a set of artwork unique to you!



Local Birding

JAN 20 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS



Attract native birds this spring and curate the perfect habitat for a variety of species. Learn about native bird species, how to attract them, and how to maintain a healthy environment for your garden visitors. Registered participants will make a bird feeder and go home with a sample of birdseed to fill your feeder.

Science Lab

JAN 27 | 6PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Form and test your own hypothesis about hands-on science experiments that you can do yourself! Play with color reactions, poke a straw through a potato, layer different liquids in a tower, and discover how much weight an egg can handle.



Pretend and Play: Animal Clinic

JAN 28 | 10:30AM

DESIGNED FOR EARLY LEARNERS

Calling all veterinarians-in-training! Help your stuffed animals feel their best as we explore a loving animal clinic. Pretend and Play features stories and guided play using props and scene settings to build your child's vocabulary, cooperative skills and imagination.



Lakewood cont.

CrazyHouse Pottery

FEB 4 | 4:30PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Get creative with a hands on pottery painting experience! CrazyHouse Pottery will give a painting introduction before you paint your own unique piece. All materials are provided, just bring your imagination and enjoy a night of art and new friends.

AARP Tax Prep

FEB 5, 12, 19, 26 | 10:30AM - 4:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

AARP professionally trained volunteers prepare federal, state and local tax returns for low and middle-income taxpayers, with special attention to those sixty and older, by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call 740.641.2387 from 8:30am - 4pm, Monday through Friday.

AARP is looking for friendly volunteers to join their Tax-Aide team and will provide training and support. Call 999.227.7669 for more information.



Reader's Choice Book & Craft Club

FEB 14 | 11:30AM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Enjoy a laid-back morning of crafting and book discussion. Use our craft supplies or bring your own project to work on. This month is a Galentine's edition: participants are invited to bring their favorite bookish friend with them and make "bestie bookmarks" - a set of two bookmarks, one to keep and one to share with a friend.

Celebrate National Pokémon Day!

FEB 28 | 10AM-3PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Gotta catch 'em all? Celebrate National Pokémon Day with us! Test your knowledge with Pokémon trivia and themed crafts. Comic Book Plus will be here at 10:30am to teach us how to play the Pokémon trading card game. It's sure to be a celebration you'll want to catch!

Utica



Internet Safety

FEB 10 | 1PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Techsperts suggest dos and don'ts for internet security. You'll be provided with guidelines for using the internet to best keep your data personal and private.

Valentine-Making Party

FEB 13 | 1:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Celebrate the season of love and creativity for an afternoon of crafting, laughter, and sweet treats as we prepare for Valentine's Day together. Everything you need to design heartfelt cards and handmade valentines will be ready for you—just bring your imagination!

UNO Game Night

FEB 19 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Looking for a game that's easy to learn but hard to stop playing? UNO is the game for you. The challenge: be the first to play all your cards. And remember, when you're down to just one, don't forget to shout "UNO!" To make the game accessible for everyone, each card features special graphic symbols that clearly mark its color. This ensures that players with any form of color blindness can join in without difficulty. Discover why this classic is impossible to put down!

The Chameleon Game Night

JAN 15 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Looking for a game that's quick, clever, and full of laughs? The Chameleon is a bluffing board game where players race to spot the sneaky chameleon before it blends in and escapes. Everyone knows the secret word—except the player holding the chameleon card. Using hidden clues and smart guesses, you'll work together to track down the guilty player before the impostor slips away.

Stardew Valley Junimo Party

JAN 20 | 4:30PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Warm up this chilly season with a creative twist inspired by Stardew Valley! During this hands-on workshop you'll sculpt your very own Junimo character out of clay. These whimsical forest spirits will bring a touch of Stardew magic to your winter days. Alongside crafting, participants will share their favorite tips, tricks, and secrets for cultivating the best in-game farm life. Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting your journey, you'll leave with new strategies—and a charming clay Junimo to keep you company. All materials provided and no prior crafting experience is needed.

LEGO® Build-a-thon

JAN 28 | 10AM-5PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Get ready to unleash your creativity with an all-day LEGO® building event. Builders of all ages are invited to drop in, grab some bricks, and let their imaginations run wild. Whether you're a master builder or just starting out, this is the perfect chance to design, construct, and share your creations with the community. Come for a few minutes or stay for hours—the bricks (and fun) will be waiting!

West Newark (Emerson R. Miller)

Winter Mug Bird Feeders

JAN 10 | 12PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

Be a helper to our non-migratory bird friends this winter by creating a lovely bird feeder out of a mug and saucer!

Tote-ally Awesome Graphic Novel Club

JAN 14, FEB 11 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ELEMENTARY

In the world of graphic novels, there is something for everyone! Add flair to your tote bag while we discuss a graphic novel. This group is designed for kids in grade 3 and up. Copies are available at the West Newark (Emerson R. Miller) location and may also be accessed digitally.

January: *LightFall: The Girl & The Galdurian* by Tim Probert

February: *The Underground Abductor: an Abolitionist Tale* by Nathan Hale

Little Listeners: Cookie Science

JAN 17 | 1PM

DESIGNED FOR EARLY LEARNERS

Discover the fun side of science with cookies! Kids will explore, experiment, and learn scientific concepts through hands-on cookie challenges and tasty observations.

Comic Creation

JAN 20 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

Some stories are made even better by seeing the action unfold on the page. Learn some tips on how to create your own comic book, from concept to layout and artwork ideas.

Skein Squad Crochet Group

JAN 20, FEB 17 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Grab your hook and join the squad! Skein Squad meets monthly to crochet, connect, and give back to the community. Bring your own yarn and hook, though some supplies will be available. Keep your creations or share the love as gifts! Teens are welcome, too.

BritLit Book Group

JAN 21, FEB 18 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Calling all literary enthusiasts and Anglophiles! Join us for witty discussions and a jolly good time. Copies are available at the West Newark (Emerson R. Miller) location and may be accessed digitally.

January: *The Darkest Evening*

by Anne Cleaves

February: *Lost Books and Old Bones*

by Paige Shelton

Historical Drama Group

JAN 28, FEB 25 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Delve into the untold stories behind history through film and gain a new perspective on the people and events that have shaped our world. Copies are available at the West Newark (Emerson R. Miller) location.

January: *Rudy*

February: *Oppenheimer*

Little Listeners: For the Birds!

JAN 29 | 10:30AM

DESIGNED FOR EARLY LEARNERS

Tweet, flap, and soar with us! This preschool story time takes flight with bird-themed books, songs, and rhymes that spark imagination and support early learning.



LGBTQIA+ Book Group

JAN 29, FEB 26 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Everyone is welcome to engage in fun, respectful dialogue. Copies are available at the West Newark (Emerson R. Miller) location and may be accessed digitally. January: *A Half-Built Garden*

by Ruthanna Emrys

February: *Here for It: Or, How to Save Your Soul in America*

by R. Eric Thomas

Preschool Play Day

JAN 31 | 10:30AM

DESIGNED FOR EARLY LEARNERS

This come-and-go activity time allows children 5 and under to play with other kids their own age and gives their caregivers a chance to socialize, trade tips and stories, and more.

Threads of Tradition

FEB 9 | 10AM-4:45PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

This two-week art exhibition celebrates the beauty, creativity, and craftsmanship of rug hooking—an art form that transforms fibers into intricate works of design and storytelling.

Squish Squad Art

FEB 10 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR TEENS

The cutest (and easiest) life drawing class ever. Choose your very spherical subject from Squishmallow critters and capture their likeness on canvas.



Snoreytime: Popcorn Party!

FEB 19 | 4PM

DESIGNED FOR EARLY LEARNERS

POP into family story time for a fun celebration of popcorn! We'll share stories, songs, and rhymes about everyone's favorite crunchy snack.

Screen Break

FEB 19 | 5:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

We could all use a little time away from our devices, no matter how convenient they are. Slow down, learn about a few new analog hobbies, and discover strategies to help make you a little less reliant on the brick in your pocket.

West Newark cont.

Sensory Shenanigans Play Date

FEB 21 | 10:39AM

DESIGNED FOR EARLY LEARNERS

It's time to dig in! Little learners are invited to explore exciting textures and objects designed to spark curiosity and creativity. Scoop, sift, and discover at this come-and-go activity that supports fine motor development and early learning through hands-on exploration.

You'll Get Hooked!

FEB 24 | 12PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS 

Come for a fun, hands-on introduction to the timeless art of rug hooking! The Buckeye Rug Hooking Guild will share the history and techniques behind this beautiful fiber art. Anyone attending will have the opportunity to give it a try. (NOTE: This art form is different than latch hook.)

Latch Hook 101

FEB 24 | 4:30PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS 

In this beginner-friendly workshop, participants will discover how to use a latch hook tool to master basic techniques, experiment with simple patterns, and create textured designs on mesh canvas. Everyone will leave with a small finished piece. All materials are provided, and registration is required. No experience necessary!

The Soldiers You've Never Heard Of

FEB 28 | 1PM

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS 

Experience the powerful story of the Buffalo Soldiers with Gregory L. Edmonds of the Ohio Memorial Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Through vivid storytelling, he highlights the hardships, heroism, and lasting legacy of the African American troops who helped shape the American West and paved the way for future generations of Black service members.



Off Site



Maples & Manuscripts

JAN 8, FEB 5 | 7PM

OCTAGON EARTHWORKS

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS 

Join us to discuss some of the best nature-themed nonfiction. We will also explore additional resources through activities to deepen our understanding of the natural world. Copies of the book are available at the Downtown Newark location and may be accessed digitally. Maples & Manuscripts is a partnership between Licking County Library, the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks, and Dillon State Park.

January: *Coyote America*

by Dan Flores

February: *Tales from the Ant World*

by Edward O. Wilson



Family Recipes: Save and Share

JAN 14 | 1PM | LCAP

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Bring your treasured family recipes and a smartphone to this hands-on class. Our Techspert will guide you through the process of taking high-quality photos and editing them for clarity. Then, learn how to organize your photos into a digital album, creating a lasting, shareable record of your family's culinary history. You'll leave ready to share your digital recipe album with family or have it printed to create a modern heirloom. This program is held at the Licking County Aging Partners: 1058 E. Main Street, Newark. Please register by calling 740.345.0821.

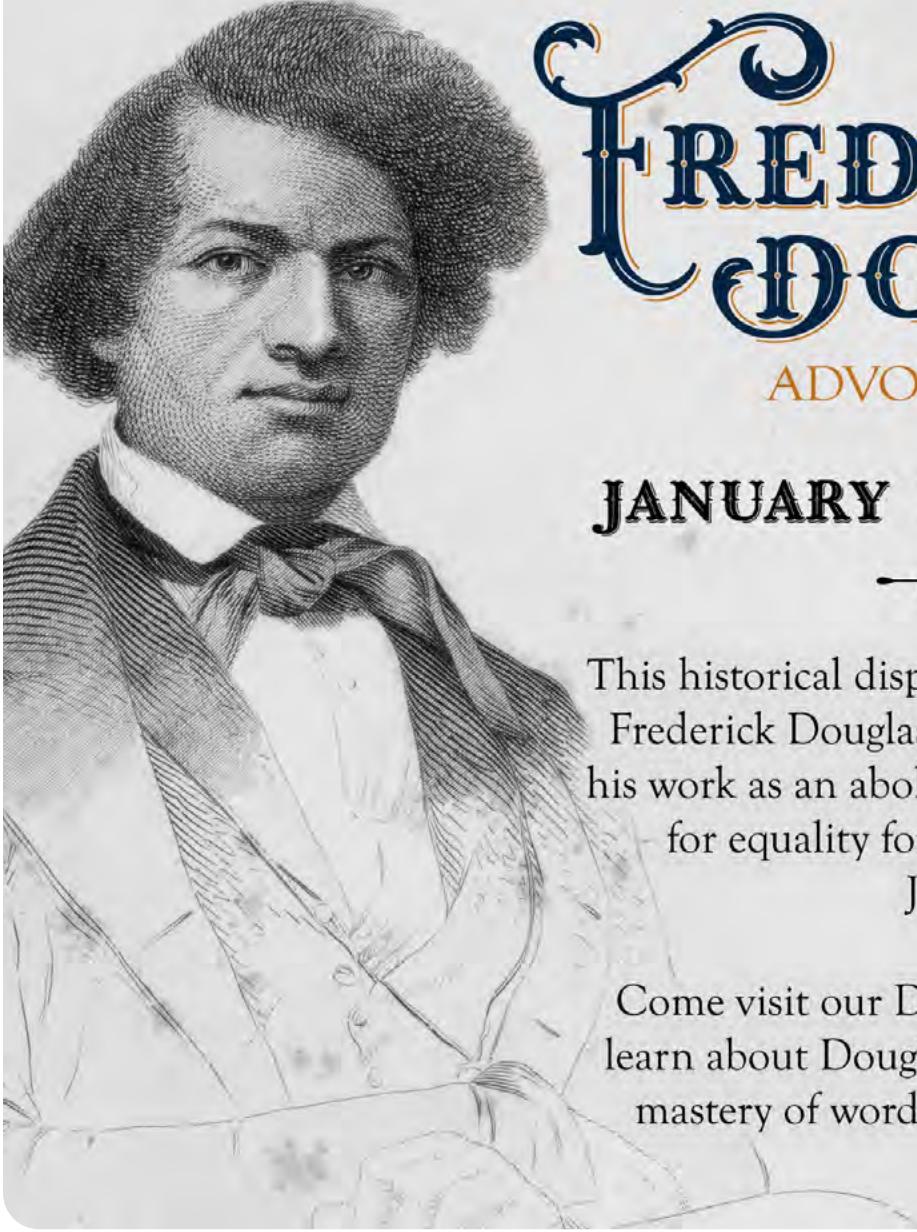


Get to Know Android

FEB 12 | 1PM | LCAP

DESIGNED FOR ADULTS

Join us as our Techspert covers the basics of your Android device, showing you how to organize your home screen, find and adjust settings, navigate the Play Store, and download apps. This program is held at the Licking County Aging Partners: 1058 E. Main Street, Newark. Please register by calling 740.345.0821.



FREDERICK DOUGLASS

ADVOCATE FOR EQUALITY

JANUARY 19–FEBRUARY 27



This historical display in The Collective examines Frederick Douglass and his escape from slavery, his work as an abolitionist, and his relentless fight for equality for all individuals during the Jim Crow era.

Come visit our Downtown Newark location to learn about Douglass' experiences, courage, and mastery of words represented in this exhibit.

Hobbies & Crafts Source

January is International Creativity Month!

Get your craft on with Hobbies and Crafts Reference Center, which offers detailed "how-to" instructions and creative ideas to meet the interests of virtually every hobby enthusiast. Full text is provided from leading hobby and craft magazines.

Content Includes:

- Full text for nearly 2,000 magazines and books
- More than 720 videos
- More than 180 hobby profiles
- More than 10,000 recipes



EBSCOhost

Be Internet Awesome.

From **February 2 - March 13**, Licking County Library is proud to present a five-week passive program designed to help families explore digital safety together—powered by the nationally recognized *Be Internet Awesome* initiative from Highlights and Google.

Visit your home library with your children every week of the program to receive a take-home activity based on one of the five pillars of essential internet safety skills:

Smart, Alert, Strong, Kind, and Brave. This engaging program empowers children to become safe, confident explorers of the online world.

Ask a staff member or visit our website to learn more!



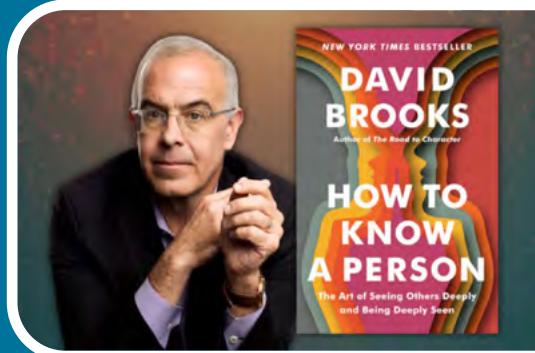
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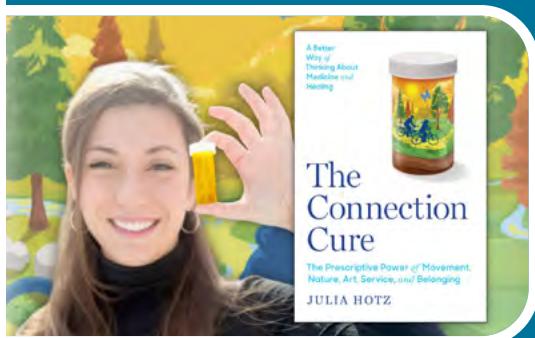
Virtual Author Talks

David Brooks

January 13 | 2pm



Nature, Art, and Service as Medicine with Julia Hotz
January 20 | 2pm



Liz Moore

January 28 | 7pm



View details, more talks, and register online!





Life-long learning classes designed for renewal and growth! Registration for Empowered Minds classes is easy to do online at lickingcountylibrary.org. We also welcome in-person, mailed or phone registrations by calling 740.349.5520. Empowered Minds is supported by a sustaining gift from Robert Trimble Jr., a lifelong learner, and in part by the Licking County Senior Levy.



Surrealism: The Art of Dreams • January 14 • 11am - 12:30pm • Virtual

Art historian and artist Sean Crum discusses the art movement known as Surrealism.

Page Turners Book Club • January 20, February 17 • 3 - 4pm • Downtown Newark

Gather with friends and fellow readers to explore the spectrum of literature and share perspectives. Copies are available at the Downtown Newark location and may also be accessed digitally.

January: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

February: *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman



Orchids: The Botany of Desire • January 27 • 1 - 2pm • Virtual

Smithsonian senior botanist, Dr. Dennis Whigham, takes us on a journey to the world of native orchids.



Ancient Rome: From Republic to Empire • February 4 • 11am - 12pm • Virtual

Dr. Fred Drogula discusses the ancient Roman Republic and Empire.

Eating Grasshoppers • February 6 • 11am - 12:30pm • Downtown Newark

Dr. Jeffrey Cohen discusses his research for the book, *Eating Grasshoppers: Chapulines and the Women Who Sell Them*. His work explores the cultural, economic, and culinary significance of chapulines (toasted grasshoppers) in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Planet Earth 101 • February 10 • 3 - 4pm • Downtown Newark

Dr. Anjali Fernandes offers an engaging overview of the forces that shape our planet.

U.S. Supreme Court: 2026 Review • February 12 • 1 - 2:30pm • Downtown Newark

Dr. Sarah Hampson, author of *The Balance Gap: Working Mothers and the Limits of the Law* and co-editor of *Mothers, Military and Society*, discusses current Supreme Court cases and decisions.



Saving Coral Reefs • February 16 • 1 - 2pm • Virtual

Dr. Erin Muller discusses how scientists at Mote Marine Laboratory in Florida are meeting the dire need for active coral restoration.

Fungi Through the Ages • February 18 • 11am - 12:30pm • Downtown Newark

Dr. Jason Slot presents some of the major events in earth history and human history involving fungi.



Dragonflies: From the Arctic to the Tropics • February 24 • 1 - 2pm • Virtual

Dr. Jessica Ware explores the origins of Odonata, the order of predatory flying insects including dragonflies and damselflies.

Why Humans Are Unremarkable • February 25 • 11am - 12:30pm • Downtown Newark

Professor Habiba Chirchir explores the evolution of the slender-boned skeletons that characterize modern humans.

LCL LOCATIONS

Visit our website for location hours: lickingcountylibrary.org

* Includes a drive-up window for your convenience

Downtown Newark*

101 West Main Street, Newark | 740.349.5500

Johnstown (Mary E. Babcock)

320 North Main Street, Johnstown | 740.967.2982

Lakewood

620 East Main Street, Hebron | 740.928.0472

West Newark (Emerson R. Miller)*

990 West Main Street, Newark | 740.344.2155

Utica*

115 South Main Street, Utica | 740.892.2400

Mobile Library

Schedule listed online | 740.349.5519

24-Hour Kiosk • COTC Pataskala Campus

8660 West Broad Street, Reynoldsburg

24-Hour Kiosk • Legacy Park Hanover

2018 West High Street, Newark

This publication is available in alternate formats on request. Please contact info@lickingcountylibrary.org.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

All programs at Licking County Library are free! Programs are designed with the indicated age group in mind. There are three ways to register:

Program Calendar: lickingcountylibrary.org

In-person/Phone: 740.349.5500

Email: info@lickingcountylibrary.org

KEY TO SYMBOLS:



Registration Required



Dress For A Mess



Developing students' interests while learning outside of the classroom.



Copies of Book Club selections are available at the specific location or may be accessed digitally.



Local History programs cover historic events, places and people including military information.



Made possible, in part, by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the State Library of Ohio.



Enjoy stories, rhymes and songs that help develop early literacy skills!

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Andrew Reardon

Kim Sherman

Julia Walden, Executive Director

Olivia Chapman, Head of Marketing

Closing:

Wednesday, December 31 | Closed at 5pm for New Year's Eve

Thursday, January 1 | Closed for New Year's Day

Licking County Library



lickingcountylibrary.org | 740.349.5500