



# the **ORLA** newsletter.

OCTOBER 2025

# VOTE YES

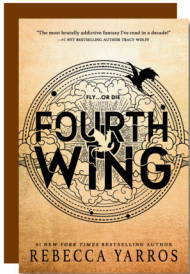
for libraries  
on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# BECAUSE OUR LIBRARIES ARE FOR EVERYONE



# WHAT WE'RE READING

 Available on Libby



SERIES

## THE EMPYREAN

REBECCA YARROS

20-year-old Violet Sorrengail was supposed to enter the Scribe Quadrant, living a quiet life among books & history. Now the commanding general—also known as her tough-as-talons mother—has ordered Violet to join the hundreds of candidates striving to become the elite of Navarre: dragon riders. When you're smaller than everyone else & your body is brittle, death is only a heartbeat away...because dragons don't bond to "fragile" humans; they incinerate them. With fewer dragons willing to bond than cadets, most would kill Violet to better their chances of success. The rest would kill her just for being her mother's daughter—like Xaden Riorson, the most powerful & ruthless wingleader in the Riders Quadrant. She'll need every edge her wits can give her just to see the next sunrise. Yet with every day that passes, the war outside grows deadlier; the kingdom's protective wards are failing; & the death toll continues to rise. Even worse, Violet begins to suspect leadership is hiding a terrible secret.

**"This series opened my eyes WIDELY to the emerging romantasy genre. I was sold early on the fantasy worldbuilding that includes multiple generations of history/lore, popular creatures like dragons, wyverns, & griffins – each selectively paired with their riders, & magic that is harnessed through bonds, expressed in unique abilities. Then, the romance completely takes over. What starts out seemingly as a teen crush unfolds into an (oft-repeated) explicitly-described love affair between two of the heroes. I made it partway through book 2 until I finally lost all hope that their passion would give in to some of the other plotlines. To me, so much potential is overshadowed by the impossible-to-fast-forward-enough romance. To you, perhaps it's the spicy love affair with a fantastic backdrop that you've just been dying for!"** Dan Flaherty, Oil Region Library Association

## THE SPELLSHOP

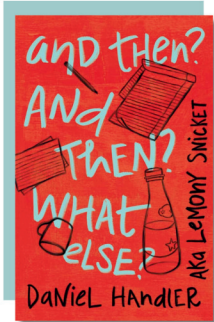
SARAH BETH DURST



Kiela has always had trouble dealing with people. Thankfully, as a librarian at the Great Library of Alyssium, she & her assistant, Caz—a magically sentient spider plant—have spent the last decade sequestered among the empire's most precious spellbooks, preserving their magic for the city's elite. When a revolution begins & the library goes up in flames, she & Caz flee with all the spellbooks they can carry & head to a remote island Kiela never thought she'd see again: her childhood home. Taking refuge there, Kiela discovers, much to her dismay, a nosy—& very handsome—neighbor who can't take a hint & keeps showing up day after day to make sure she's fed & to help fix up her new home. In need of income, Kiela identifies something that even the bakery in town doesn't have: jam. With the help of an old recipe book her parents left her & a bit of illegal magic, her cottage garden is soon covered in ripe berries. But magic can do more than make life a little sweeter, so Kiela risks the consequences of using unsanctioned spells & opens the island's first-ever & much-needed secret spellshop. Fueled by cinnamon rolls & magic, *The Spellshop* will heal your heart & feed your soul.

**"I loved the story, but felt like it was rushed near the end. I feel like the relationships could have been expanded more. The magic & the fantasy vibes were there, but I wish there was more shown of that side. I liked the main character & she lived in a cozy little town, which set the tone of daily life. Overall, I think it is a cozy & sweet read."** Dakota Schatz, Oil City Library

NONFICTION



## AND THEN? AND THEN? WHAT ELSE?

DANIEL HANDLER, AKA LEMONY SNICKET

Writing as Lemony Snicket, Daniel Handler has led several generations of young readers into that special & curious space of being hopelessly lost, & joyfully finding oneself, in the essential strangeness of literature. The wondrous & perilous journey of the Baudelaire orphans sprung from the author's own path, from his childhood discovery of Baudelaire's poetry through the countless peculiarities of his pursuit of a literary life—abject failure & startling success, breakthrough & breakdown, concordance & controversy—lit along the way by the books & culture he loved best. At once a personal memoir & a literary exploration, a how-to book & a critical inquiry, a sequence of stories & a series of events, *And Then? And Then? What Else?* is a book not just for anyone curious about the creator of Lemony Snicket, but for anyone who loved books when they were a child, & still loves them now.

**"Mr. Handler's dry wit, stream of consciousness writing, & obvious love of books make this a delight to read, though it's not for everyone. No one else writes like him that I have encountered, & the fact that he put a recommended media list at the back also makes it fun. I always come away from reading his work with 20 other things I want to look into. A quick & engaging read."** Amanda Barker, Franklin & Cooperstown Public Libraries



# SPEAK FREELY

## A POETRY NIGHT OF BANNED BOOKS

THURS. OCTOBER 9

5:30 - 7:30 PM



OIL CITY LIBRARY

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM

Join us during Banned Books Week (October 5-11, 2025) for an evening of powerful poetry readings from banned & challenged books. *Speak Freely* will bring together educators, students, writers, & community members to celebrate the right to read & uplift voices that have been silenced. The program will feature selected readings, short introductions to each poem, complimentary refreshments, & a closing reflection period where the community can share responses & favorite lines. This program is free to attend and is open to teens & adults!



## TRL is BACK!

Join us on Tuesdays starting on **October 14th, from 5:00 to 6:00pm at the Franklin Public Library**. This year's theme, "Voice & Vision," aims to help teens foster confidence & empowerment through self-expression & personal advocacy by developing leadership skills & encouraging them to speak up for themselves and others. The theme emphasizes the significance of self-expression as a means of fostering self-confidence & promoting personal growth. By allowing teens to authentically express their thoughts, feelings, & ideas, whether through art, speech, or other forms of communication, they can strengthen their sense of identity & purpose. In the broader sense, it encourages teens to use their voice not just for personal growth but also to make a positive impact in their communities. This session of TRL is about creating young leaders who are not only confident in who they are but also empowered to create meaningful change in the world around them.



It will once again be a 6-week session open to ages 12-18. For more information & to register, please visit [oilregionlibraries.org/youth/teens](http://oilregionlibraries.org/youth/teens). Additional questions can be emailed to Daidre Green at [fplteen@oilregionlibraries.org](mailto:fplteen@oilregionlibraries.org).



# PICTURE THIS

WRITTEN AND  
CREATED BY

EMILY ANTKOWIAK

Each month, I take one historical image & photograph it superimposed over the same area as it appears today. This allows you to see what Venango County looked like in the past with a modern reference. My hope is to share neat photos from the library's archives to make them and their history more attainable.



Remember this photo from February of this year? Library Hall inception! It's so hard to believe that work has been completed & events are being hosted in Library Hall already! If you have not seen the space at the Oil City Library in person, stop in soon. The pictures, though fabulous, do not do it justice. We are hosting many events throughout the end of 2025, so there are plenty of opportunities to see it filled with people. Stop by Oct. 18 to see Jamie Bastello, Oct. 23 for a Town Hall meeting about our important referendum campaign, & Nov. 1 for a rock concert featuring One If By Land, Big Time Machine, & Dead End Dystopia. You can find out more info about these events in this newsletter, on our social media, & in the library!

NOW



THEN

Do you have an image or location you'd like to see featured?  
Email [eantkowiak@oilregionlibraries.org](mailto:eantkowiak@oilregionlibraries.org) with your suggestions!



Provide **access**. Prevent **cuts**.

# VOTE YES

for libraries on November 4th, 2025

**Everything is on the line this Election Day. On November 4, 2025, the future of our libraries will be decided at the ballot box.**

Without a YES vote, doors will close, programs will shrink, & our community will lose vital opportunities for learning & connection. One vote can mean the difference between strong, thriving libraries—or struggling ones. Stand up for your library. **Vote YES!**

## LIBRARY REFERENDUM TOWN HALL MEETINGS

AT OIL REGION LIBRARY LOCATIONS

Join us for a discussion about the library referendum campaign & get your questions answered!

  
**MAKE THE MOST  
INFORMED  
DECISION BEFORE  
YOU VOTE!**

**FREE & OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5:30PM | DISCUSSION STARTS 6:00PM**

For more information, email:  
[VOTEYES@OILREGIONLIBRARIES.ORG](mailto:VOTEYES@OILREGIONLIBRARIES.ORG)



**FRANKLIN LIBRARY  
OCT. 21**



**COOPERSTOWN  
LIBRARY  
OCT. 22**



**OIL CITY LIBRARY  
OCT. 23**

## IF YES!

- Every Venango County resident qualifies for direct library access
- Ability to maintain current locations
- A new countywide travelling bookmobile
- Sustainable staffing support for quality service
- Increased community involvement & reach
- Eligibility for additional state funding
- Attract & retain residents due to available services (i.e., workforce, tax base, friends!)
- Support toward retaining & increasing property values

## IF NO

- More people will pay directly out of pocket
- No eligibility for additional state funding
- Threats to eligibility of existing funding
- Reduction of resources & services
- Insufficient staffing support
- Potential closure of current locations
- No countywide bookmobile
- Limited outreach & community participation
- Lack of service offerings and/or increased costs to provide similar offerings
- Deterrent to attract new residents & retain existing ones due to lack of service offerings
- Negative impact on property values



# Vote **YES**

## for libraries on November 4th, 2025.

Learn more at [oilregionlibraries.org/vote-yes](https://oilregionlibraries.org/vote-yes)

# ACCESS

Who & How



## LIBRARY ACCESS

¾ of county residents get free library cards; ¼ must pay out of pocket due to reduced municipal support.



## COLLECTION

217K+ physical items across 8 locations in 2 counties (books, DVDs, tools, games, STEM kits & more).



## DIGITAL RESOURCES

30K+ eBooks, 13K audiobooks, & 800 magazines.



## ONLINE SERVICES

Mango Languages, Kanopy, Freegal Music+, Newspaper Archive, LawDepot, Craftsby & Dial-A-Story.



## TECHNOLOGY

19 public computers, free WiFi, 125 laptops arriving in 2026.



## COMMUNITY

Free programs, meeting rooms, & private booking options.

## Dear Community,

We appreciate the interest in our library efforts & hope you'll allow our perspective to be part of your wider research into deciding how you vote on this measure. We understand the importance of this decision, which is why we invite you to learn about the considerations we've given throughout our efforts to ensure all Venango County residents have direct access to quality public library services. We encourage everyone to make the choice they feel is best for our community. Here, we'll address common themes recognized in recent discussions, including access, relevance, & taxes. Visit [oilregionlibraries.org/vote-yes](https://oilregionlibraries.org/vote-yes) to see how we address specific points, & please suggest any others we can include to give you the most information & context.

Libraries remain an important, vital component of our American identity &, more specifically, throughout our local community. We are committed to providing access, encouraging individual exploration, & promoting community engagement. We stand proudly behind our philosophical stance on providing access & connecting users to information. Information is power, & libraries facilitate power to the people to preserve & enhance our democracy.

Being more practical, consolidating resources saves everyone money by making them available to a wider, shared audience. Libraries consolidate information & resources so that everyone—not just those who can afford it—has the freedom to learn & grow. This allows us to serve a range of needs from basic literacy to career development, individual exploration to formal learning, offsetting individual budgets & providing for those who otherwise wouldn't have access, whether by choice or need. This includes everyone, & that means YOU.

Hundreds of unique users access our resources daily within library walls, online, or at partner community institutions & events. Many of our limitations are capacity-related & not due to lack of use. This effort looks to correct that & guarantee access for our entire public audience.

**What have we done to promote access?** We voluntarily consolidated 3 libraries under shared governance, combining staffing & resources. Then, we expanded partnerships & fundraising. We include tools, equipment, games, & other resources as part of our required collection purchases. All of this was done to maximize access (to over 200,000 physical resources, 50,000 digital resources, 8 locations, etc.), save costs for our stakeholders, & be more responsive to our community interests.





Violet loves coming to the library's Bouncing Babies & Storytime programs!



ORLA puts on several community events per year, like the annual Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge.

"A LIBRARY OUTRANKS ANY  
OTHER ONE THING A  
COMMUNITY CAN DO TO  
BENEFIT ITS PEOPLE. IT IS A  
NEVER-FAILING SPRING IN  
THE DESERT."  
ANDREW CARNEGIE



Therapy dogs regularly visit the libraries for children to read with them.



Daphne celebrates reading 600 books as part of the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

**What are we up against?** State law that heavily leans into municipal & school district relationships to determine State Aid eligibility and service standards. Elected municipal leaders haven't realized the incentive-laden components to maintain & enhance their library support. In effect, it has impacted our bottom line, limited our amount of state funding, & threatened direct access to thousands of residents. It also limits our ability to meaningfully respond to demand.

**What do we propose?** Rather than relying on representative government, we're asking you to decide directly on public library funding. Many use our services, others don't, but still value our role in the community & we continue to explore pathways to reaching those who currently can't or choose not to. Shifting our funds to the county level will qualify us for more state aid, allow everyone to get the same access, & provide us with the means to become more countywide than what we currently are.

**So, how relevant are we?** Our libraries continue to be heavily utilized. For some, it's periodic use, while others utilize services regularly. We serve through a combination of need & individual choice. We have over 7,500 library borrowers - noting unused accounts are deleted annually, many households share a card, & plenty of services don't require one. Each week, over 500 unique users access their cards & all users combine for over 100,000 physical circulations & 20,000+ digital circulations annually. We offer nearly 500 annual programs, attended by over 6,000 visitors! We were recognized as the Venango Area Chamber Partner in Business (2022) & nominated for an IMLS National Medal for Museum & Library Services (2019). The explosion of the internet in many ways has enhanced our services to allow for more efficiencies, more robust offerings & guides (via resource & staff) to help users access & navigate the digital landscape. This includes 8,000 annual PC sessions, over 28,000 WiFi uses, regular WiFi Hot Spot checkouts, laptop accessibility, & a robust collection of digital offerings (eBooks, language learning, business resources, legal documents, crafts, & more).

**What have we done to remain relevant?** We voluntarily consolidated services to be more responsive & share a wider reach. We enhanced partnerships to bring our resources to more locations & into community sites - such as daycares, elementary classrooms & other service providers. We've opened our spaces to individuals, entrepreneurs & other providers to enhance their own missions. We've expanded resource & service offerings to meet various recreational, educational, & technological interests. We offer physical, digital, on-site & community-based services.

**What are we up against?** Not everyone gets the same access, so it can confuse the message. Voting YES! will ....



# RELEVANCY

How many people actually use the library?

## LIBRARY USERS

7.5K+ library user accounts, some families share cards, & unused accounts are cleared annually. 500+ unique users access library resources each week.

## CIRCULATION

120K+ items borrowed each year, including 48K+ children's resources. 20K+ eBook, digital audiobook, magazine, movie, & TV checkouts annually.



## TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

8K in-house computer sessions & 28K+ WiFi logins annually.



## PROGRAMS & VISITS

475+ public programs each year, reaching 6K+ attendees. 50K+ people visit our locations annually. 400+ room bookings each year for public & private use.



## OUTREACH

Partnerships with CareerLink, Family Services, IU5, The ARC, & others, including at community events. Regular book deliveries to elementary classrooms, plus monthly adult & in-school book clubs.



## RECOGNITION

2022 Venango Chamber Partner in Business of the Year; 2019 nominee for IMLS National Medal for Museum & Library Services.

....change that. Limited budgets & location-specific support create unequal opportunities. People can limit their perception of us as “book lenders” instead of “connectors,” which significantly undermines the extent of service offerings we provide. A countywide approach will allow us to develop a bookmobile to broadcast and deliver these resources more widely, plus be more flexible based on actual demand.

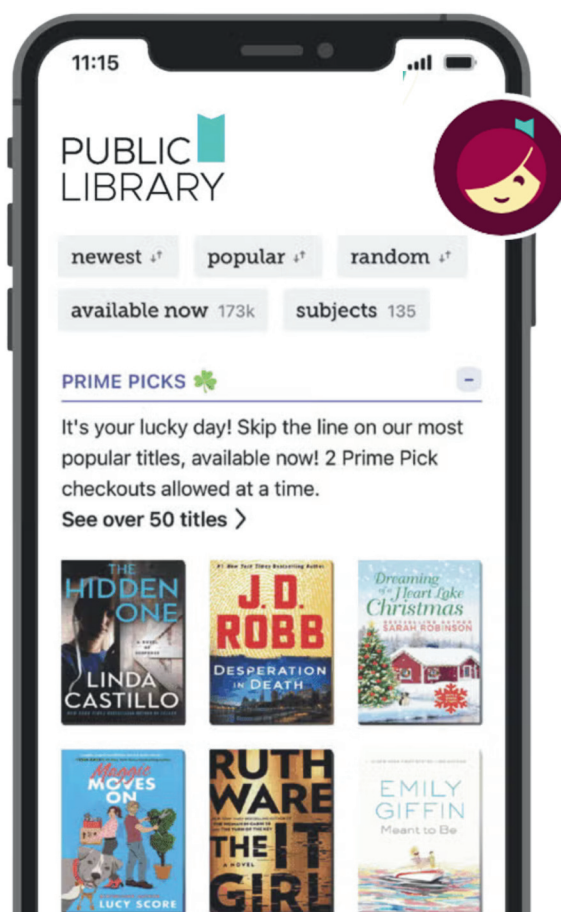
### And now, taxes.

We do not, nor will we be able to dictate the size of the (tax) pie. That is up to your local elected officials, as it currently stands. In any given budget year, they (school boards, municipalities, county) have the authority to increase, decrease, or keep tax rates the same. This doesn't change that and deserves its own separate discussion. That said, regular election cycles provide voters with the opportunity to voice their opinion on the overall tax rates and decisions made by these officials.

Instead of dictating the size of the pie, we're looking to guarantee that the library has a piece of it (.25 mills, specifically). Once approved, it is up to the discretion of elected officials as to whether this will be added to the current rate, incorporated into existing budgets, or even part of overall tax reductions. Those rates, including the designated library support, may change with any future administration, as they currently can. What this will do is legally codify the minimum library distribution to ensure your ongoing public access through a rare form of direct democracy - giving power to the people to direct specific tax dollars. Then, realize the other portion of our republic through representation. Discussions are already underway to ensure direct representation from County officials on the governing library board so that there is regular oversight and voter accountability.



The one-tap reading app from our library.






Some talk about potential tax increases beyond what we're asking, but the reality is that right now, our county and many local governments regularly invest \$0 in public library services. Rather than hypothetical concerns over ballooned budgets, we're focusing on the real, immediate threat to essential services and missing out on additional state support that could be aiding our community. While future administrations could theoretically raise rates above the voter-approved amount, others could also lower it, back to the minimum standard. We're seeking to ensure that the minimum standard is never \$0. Your ongoing voting opportunities will ensure the overall rates remain in line with your expectations.

From our country's founders to state law, access to information and libraries has been a required, clear representation of our society's ideals - for the people, by the people. James Madison argued that knowledge will forever govern ignorance. And the people must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives. Ben Franklin set the standard by sharing a library collection widely, contributing to our development. Per Thomas Jefferson, "I have often thought that nothing would do more extensive good at small expense than the establishment of a circulating library in every county...", exactly what we seek with this proposal.


Even private benefactors, as made famous by Andrew Carnegie when he paid to build over 2,000 libraries, embraced this sentiment. Realizing private donations weren't enough to guarantee ongoing public access, he donated nothing until the community established dedicated support to sustain the library. Libraries are facilitators, connectors - and practically, huge cost savers - to the people. Our community. Your community. You.

# Find Your Rate

Visit the Venango County parcel viewer website (below) & enter your property's address. Click the **Assessment** tab & multiply the Fair Market Value amount by **\$0.00025**. This is the total property tax amount that would be allocated to the library via the referendum.



<http://gis.venangopa.us>



For example, a property with an assessed value of **\$44,540** would have a library property tax amount of **\$11.13 per year**.

*Please note: Assessed Value is different than a Sale Amount.*

Our state law would agree. The recognized mutual benefit of ongoing public access to information and connections is heavily rewarded through state funding qualifications and overall levels. Further noting the importance of libraries (unavailable to other service providers, non-profits, etc), a special exception has been made allowing for the approval of dedicated public library support through voter referendum. That has not been a route sought previously in Venango County, mostly due to decades of voluntary government contributions and other support (fundraisers, gifts, state aid, etc.). While no designated tax was on the books, taxpayers had been regularly supporting libraries through their local levels - and in return getting public access.

In recent decades, public funds have voluntarily subsided. Users - by much choice and great need - continue to regularly access and demand our service, but the decision to fund is left to the discretion of select elected officials. Through years of meetings, officials often provided great praise toward our services while voluntarily defunding them, or contributing at levels below the ability to meaningfully serve countywide. As a result, thousands are at risk of losing service in the near future if it remains unchanged.

Your libraries have not stood by idly. We worked to significantly consolidate in order to minimize costs and maximize efficiency for the betterment of public access. Beyond saving costs, we've continued leaning into other ways to raise funds (lessening the overall tax burden) through fundraisers, service fees, grants, & more. Frankly, it's not enough to regularly meet demand. Therefore, we are embarking on the legal path available to us via this referendum. While it may not be perceived as the most fair, it is much more so than the status quo. Everyone will pay the same rate, the funds can be utilized countywide...



...and everyone can share in accessing these vital services.

Many of you already regularly support libraries through your tax dollars. All of you have contributed with your County taxes for 2025. For Oil City residents, this change could mean paying less than you do now while still receiving full services. For communities like Rockland Township, it would be a new investment—but one that finally provides the same direct library access and opportunities that others already enjoy. Prefer to use a different library? That's ok, because supporting one gets you access to ALL of them in PA! Can't make it in? Sign up & utilize your library digitally! Allow us to expand our reach via a bookmobile & more digital offerings.

For all Venango County voters, it will still be a fraction (less than \$15 annually on average) of both the statewide & national rates for public library support. The cost of NOT having access to public library services? You would lose the \$5 in community return on investment for each \$1 currently invested. You would pay significantly more to replicate similar service - or worse, go without it altogether. In total, voting NO would threaten our community's overall quality of life & abandon a founding ideal of providing access to information as a right, not a privilege of the select few.

**What do we propose?** Every voter gets to weigh in immediately on how their tax dollars are earmarked to support public libraries. The County's direct representation in library governance will allow voters to have a regular voice through future elections. Collecting from the county level allows us to gain NEW qualifications for additional state funds (already budgeted, going elsewhere). Keeping it at affordable rates maintains quality services & allows for countywide expansion. Everyone countywide gets direct access to libraries.

The legal pathway available to us is through property taxes. Other avenues have been voluntarily ignored or underutilized by local officials. Misconceptions about current library funding, state requirements & legal pathways require more than buzzwords and catch phrases to make the point most clear. Significant internal consolidation has reached its limits, combined with funding capacity limits to meet the regular public demand.

**VOTE YES** - to maintain equitable library services & qualify every resident for a library card. Expand reach. Empower & invest in your community.

**VOTE NO** - to reduce/eliminate library services, require more residents to pay more for less. Limit reach. Lessen investment in your community & overall quality of life.

Vote **YES!** for libraries on November 4th, 2025!

# TAX: BURDEN OR BOON

How can a tax benefit a community?



## WHY NOW?

Local officials decide tax rates each year; libraries cannot. The referendum doesn't raise the overall "pie" of taxes—it simply guarantees libraries a slice. Voters decide directly, & officials retain oversight through representation on the library board.



## THE PROBLEM

Many municipalities & the county regularly contribute \$0 to libraries. Funding has declined for decades, leaving thousands at risk of losing access. Praise for library services has continued even as support has been cut.



## THE FIX

A dedicated, countywide tax ensures equal support for all residents. Oil City residents may even pay less; townships like Rockland gain full access for the first time. One card = access to all PA libraries + digital services. Average cost: < \$15 per year per resident, far below state & national averages.



## THE PAYOFF

Every \$1 invested in libraries returns \$5 to the community. Consolidation, fundraising, & grants have stretched resources as far as possible—this keeps libraries sustainable. Guaranteed funding unlocks new state aid that Venango currently misses.



## ROOTED IN HISTORY

This is nothing new. From Ben Franklin & Thomas Jefferson to Andrew Carnegie, libraries have always embodied access to knowledge as a public right. Public funds have always been the primary revenue source of libraries in our country and locally. PA law recognizes this by allowing a rare form of direct democracy for library funding to guarantee ongoing access.



## YOUR CHOICE

A **YES!** vote secures countywide access, new state funding eligibility, & stable services. Ongoing access, by choice or need, in support of education, workforce development, & community connections remain - & likely increase. A **NO** vote means the loss of library service for thousands, & forfeits millions in community return, lessening overall quality of life.





**Libby.**  
The library reading app



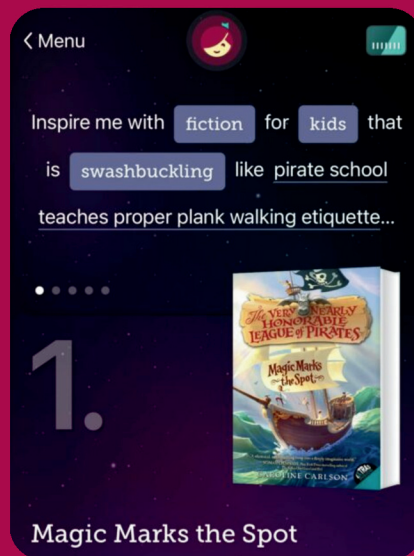
**TIP OF THE MONTH**

## Inspire Me *NEW!*

Libby has just introduced *Inspire Me*, a brand-new way to explore your library's digital collection. Instead of scrolling endlessly or searching by title, *Inspire Me* helps you uncover books you might not have found otherwise.

Here's how it works: you'll be able to tap on fun discovery prompts, called "inspirations," or draw from your saved titles. Each time, Libby will suggest five books from our digital collection & explain why they're a match. Best of all, the feature highlights books that are ready to borrow immediately, so you can start reading right away.

This tool is designed to make browsing more engaging, intuitive, & personalized—while still keeping the focus on the amazing collection your library already offers. Look for the *Inspire Me* feature by tapping the Libby icon in the center of the menu at the bottom of the app.



## Next Month's **BOOK CLUB** Selections

NOVEMBER 2025

### Oil City Library Book Club

*Oil City Library*

Meets First Thursday  
of the Month at 10:30 AM



**Lady Clementine**  
Marie Benedict



Also Available  
on Libby!

### The Bookmarkers Book Club

*Franklin Public Library*

Meets Second Tuesday  
of the Month at 12:00 PM



**The Rose Code**  
Kate Quinn

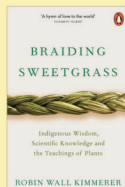


Also Available  
on Libby!

### Thursday Evening Book Club

*Franklin Public Library*

Meets Third Thursday  
of the Month at 5:00 PM



**Braiding Sweetgrass**  
Robin Wall Kimmerer



Also Available  
on Libby!

**WE'RE  
HIRING!**

**LIBRARY ASSISTANT • PART-TIME**

## Library Assistant Position Available at Oil City Library

WE'RE HIRING at the Oil City Library! We're looking for a friendly, team-oriented individual to fill the position of Part-Time Library Assistant.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to: assisting library patrons, performing circulation desk duties, providing technology support, sorting & shelving materials, assisting with library programs & more!

- **\$12.00/hour**
- **20-25 Weekly Hours** (varying shifts & includes a Saturday rotation)



VIEW COMPLETE JOB DESCRIPTION  
& APPLY ONLINE AT

**[oilregionlibraries.org/jobs](http://oilregionlibraries.org/jobs)**

or pick up an application at  
any ORLA location.

When complete, drop off applications & resumes at the Oil City Library front desk or email them to [director@oilregionlibraries.org](mailto:director@oilregionlibraries.org).



LIBRARY HALL PRESENTS

# HALLOWEEN storytime

FRIDAY, OCT. 31 | 10:00AM

at the  
OIL CITY LIBRARY

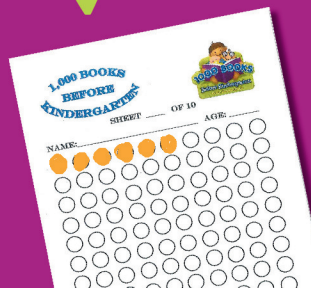
Wear your  
costume & join  
us for some  
Halloween  
stories, songs,  
& an activity!



FREE TO ATTEND • ALL AGES WELCOME



Keep track of the  
books you read with  
the library's easy  
color-the-shapes log!



These readers  
hit milestones  
recently!



## JAMIE BASTELLO LIVE OPERA



**OCT 18TH ~ 3:00PM**  
**OIL CITY LIBRARY**

Join us at the Oil City Library on Saturday, October 18th at 3:00PM for a LIVE opera performance by local opera singer Jamie Bastello in the library's upstairs historic theater, Library Hall! The performance is sure to be unique, as the library's historic theater features curved walls for optimal acoustics.

Jamie Bastello is an opera singer, live performer, recording artist, & socially engaged artist from Santa Fe, NM. Originally from Austin, Texas, Jamie was in her first opera, La Boheme, at the University of Texas. She was recognized at an early age for her vocal talents & was trained by an international opera singer, Gina Decloux.

**\$10 ADMISSION AT THE DOOR**



# LIBRARY LOTT

2026 tickets will be  
available soon!

EACH TICKET  
**\$20**  
ONLY 1000 SOLD

## SEPTEMBER WINNERS!

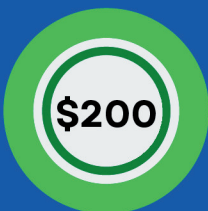


**KAREN V.**  
OIL CITY, PA



**NO WINNER**

THIS COULD BE YOU NEXT  
MONTH! GET YOUR TICKET  
TODAY AT YOUR LIBRARY!



**BRADFORD W.**  
FRANKLIN, PA

A total of 36 winners will be  
determined by the **Pennsylvania  
Daily Pick 3** evening drawing at  
7:00PM on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd days  
of each month in 2025.

# NEWS FROM THE BEEKEEPER



Thank you to everyone who enjoyed the honey bees this summer. I hope they were able to entertain and educate you. They stayed quite busy foraging, making honey, and raising baby bees (and making a mess of the glass panels!). They will be taken to the home apiary in October so they get a chance to acclimate to their new surroundings before the cold weather sets in.

Next year, in late Spring, I will start over with a new batch of bees and a clean observation hive. In the meantime, the current bees will make friends in their new home and hunker down in a cluster to ride out the cold weather with occasional cleansing flights on the warmer days. I will wrap their hive with insulation and make sure they have enough to eat and drink, plus an unobstructed entrance for those cleansing flights. See you next Spring!

*- The Beekeeper* 



## INCLUSION LIBRARY

### NOW AT THE FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY!

The Inclusion Library is a collection of games, sports, & outdoor equipment that was developed by The Arc of Clarion and Venango Counties Inc. in collaboration with the Oil Region Library Association. The purpose of the library is to provide everyone with the opportunity to be fully included in the community through activities that promote access, diversity, & belonging.

Previously, Inclusion Library items were only available at the Oil City Library. The collection has now expanded to find a home at the Franklin Public Library as well!

Items are available for use by anyone who has a Venango County library card. You must return items directly to the library from which they were checked out. All items check out for 1 week.





LIBRARY HALL PRESENTS

# ONE IF BY LAND

## BIG TIME MACHINE

## DEAD END DYSTOPIA



• LIVE IN CONCERT  
AT THE OIL CITY LIBRARY

**SATURDAY  
NOV. 1**

**ADULTS \$10 • STUDENTS \$5  
AT THE DOOR**

**7:00  
PM**

ADULT  
CRAFT  
CLUB

Fall 2025



**Bling Your  
Own Book**

October 13

5:00PM  
OIL CITY LIBRARY

October 15

4:00PM | FRANKLIN  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

October 15

5:00PM  
OIL CITY LIBRARY

**at Oil City & Franklin Libraries!**

Adult Craft Club is BACK for Fall 2025! We can't wait to see you for more crafting fun! This October, we will be Blinging Books! Adult Craft Club is free to attend & all materials will be provided. Sessions will continue to be offered at both the Oil City Library and the Franklin Public Library.

Registration is OPEN NOW! Franklin programs are held at 4:00PM & Oil City programs are held at 5:00PM. Visit or call the Franklin Public Library (814-432-5062) or the Oil City Library (814-678-3072) to register today!

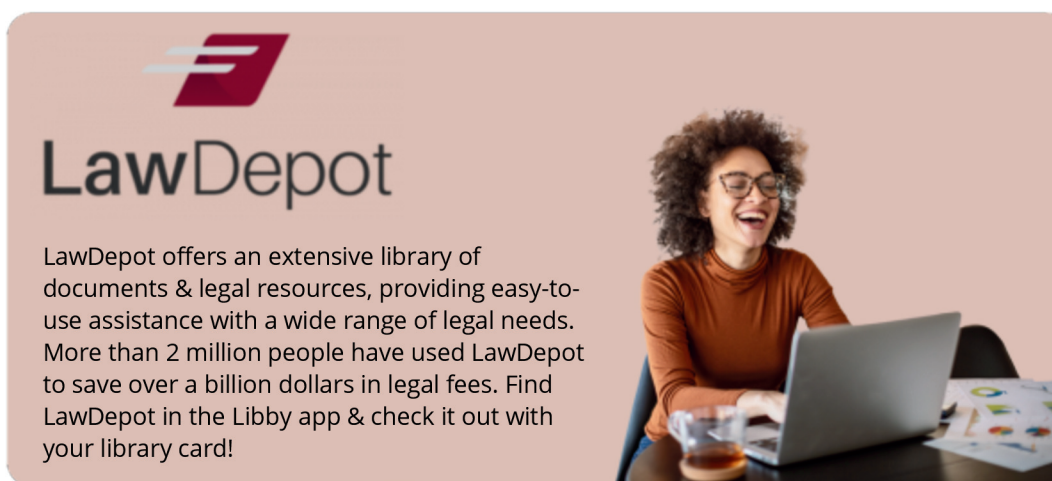


# FEATURED RESOURCES



**libby**  
The library reading app

## Culinary Cozies



**LawDepot**

LawDepot offers an extensive library of documents & legal resources, providing easy-to-use assistance with a wide range of legal needs. More than 2 million people have used LawDepot to save over a billion dollars in legal fees. Find LawDepot in the Libby app & check it out with your library card!



**ARTHOUSE favorites**

Indie Films for Niche Audiences to watch on

**kanopy**



### Oil City Library

2 Central Ave.  
Oil City, PA 16301  
(814) 678-3072

Monday	9:00am-7:30pm
Tuesday	9:00am-7:30pm
Wednesday	9:00am-7:30pm
Thursday	9:00am-5:00pm
Friday	9:00am-5:00pm
Saturday	9:00am-3:00pm
Sunday	CLOSED

### Franklin Public Library

421 12th St.  
Franklin, PA 16323  
(814) 432-5062

Monday	10:00am-6:00pm
Tuesday	10:00am-6:00pm
Wednesday	10:00am-6:00pm
Thursday	10:00am-6:00pm
Friday	10:00am-6:00pm
Saturday	10:00am-3:00pm
Sunday	CLOSED

### Cooperstown Public Library

182 N. Main St.  
Cooperstown, PA 16317  
(814) 374-4605

Monday	12:00pm-6:00pm
Tuesday	12:00pm-6:00pm
Wednesday	CLOSED
Thursday	12:00pm-6:00pm
Friday	12:00pm-6:00pm
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	CLOSED

# FIND US ONLINE

[oilregionlibraries.org](http://oilregionlibraries.org)



Libby, LawDepot & Kanopy are available to you for FREE with your library card at [oilregionlibraries.org](http://oilregionlibraries.org)



@ortalibraries