



the **ORLA** newsletter.

NOV/DEC 2025

Season's READINGS

COZY
HOLIDAY
TITLES

WHAT WE'RE READING

 Available on Libby



BRIDE ★★★★★

ALI HAZELWOOD

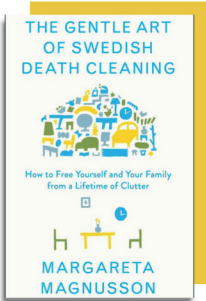
Misery Lark, the only daughter of the most powerful Vampyre councilman of the Southwest, is an outcast--again. Her days of living in anonymity among the Humans are over: she has been called upon to uphold a historic peacekeeping alliance between the Vampyres & their mortal enemies, the Weres, & she sees little choice but to surrender herself in the exchange --again... Weres are ruthless & unpredictable, & their Alpha, Lowe Moreland, is no exception. He rules his pack with absolute authority, but not without justice. And, unlike the Vampyre Council, not without feeling. It's clear from the way he tracks Misery's every movement that he doesn't trust her. If only he knew how right he was.... Because Misery has her own reasons to agree to this marriage of convenience, reasons that have nothing to do with politics or alliances, & everything to do with the only thing she's ever cared about. And she is willing to do whatever it takes to get back what's hers, even if it means a life alone in Were territory... alone with the wolf.

"A vampire ends up in a political marriage with a werewolf to build a truce. What could go wrong? Tip: To best enjoy this book, drop what you expect from vampires -- these ones just drink blood & can hypnotize people, nothing else. No turning, no undead, no immortality -- just a different species. Could have been improved by calling them fae, tbh. Otherwise, a pretty good story with a lot of political maneuvering. I would recommend this to someone wanting to transition between mafia romance & paranormal romance." Savannah L., Library Patron

NONFICTION

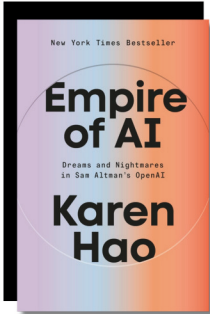
★★★★★ THE GENTLE ART OF SWEDISH DEATH CLEANING

MARGARETA MAGNUSSON



In Sweden, there is a kind of decluttering called *döstädning*, *dö* meaning "death" & *städning* meaning "cleaning." This surprising and invigorating process of clearing out unnecessary belongings can be undertaken at any age or life stage, but should be done sooner rather than later, before others have to do it for you. In *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning*, artist Margareta Magnusson, with Scandinavian humor & wisdom, instructs readers to embrace minimalism. Her radical & joyous method for putting things in order helps families broach sensitive conversations & makes the process uplifting rather than overwhelming. Margareta suggests which possessions you can easily get rid of (unworn clothes, unwanted presents, more plates than you'd ever use) & which you might want to keep (photographs, love letters, a few of your children's art projects). Digging into her late husband's tool shed & her own secret drawer of vices, Margareta introduces an element of fun to a potentially daunting task. Along the way, readers get a glimpse into her life in Sweden, & also become more comfortable with the idea of letting go.

"The book is fine. No real new information about decluttering. It states how you should only keep items that have immediate use or serious sentimental value & not to expect your family to have the same ideas of importance that you do about your stuff. Honestly, I think Marie Kondo's book states the same ideas more clearly & has better exercises to go through your stuff, even if they feel a bit silly sometimes. The book also functions okay as a memoir of sorts. The author includes a lot of personal information in her advice. I can see how that could be a draw, but if you're just looking for advice for decluttering, it makes the book a longer read for no reason. Not my favorite I've read this year, sadly." Amanda Barker, Franklin & Cooperstown Libraries



EMPIRE OF AI ★★★★★

KAREN HAO

When AI journalist Karen Hao first began covering OpenAI in 2019, she believed they were the good guys—a nonprofit founded to prioritize safety over profit. But as she dug deeper, Hao uncovered the staggering resources fueling AI's rise: vast computing power, massive datasets cleaned by underpaid workers in the Global South, & immense energy & water consumption. The field had become a new kind of empire, dominated by a few global giants. After partnering with Microsoft, OpenAI's rapid growth raised questions about whether it could resist the same temptations it once vowed to check. Hao's inside access offered an intimate view of the chaos surrounding Sam Altman's shocking firing & swift reinstatement, revealing much about the power structures driving the industry. Drawing on voices from Silicon Valley to Kenya and Chile, Hao exposes the human and environmental costs of AI's expansion. *Empire of AI* offers a penetrating look at how naked ambition, cloaked in good intentions, is reshaping our world.

"This book is a must-read for anyone concerned about the growing ubiquity of AI. How much can we rely now on what we see on the screen, or read in the news? How far will technology dominate our lives? Will humans eventually be replaced by robots?" Sonja Hunt, Franklin Public Library Advisory Board

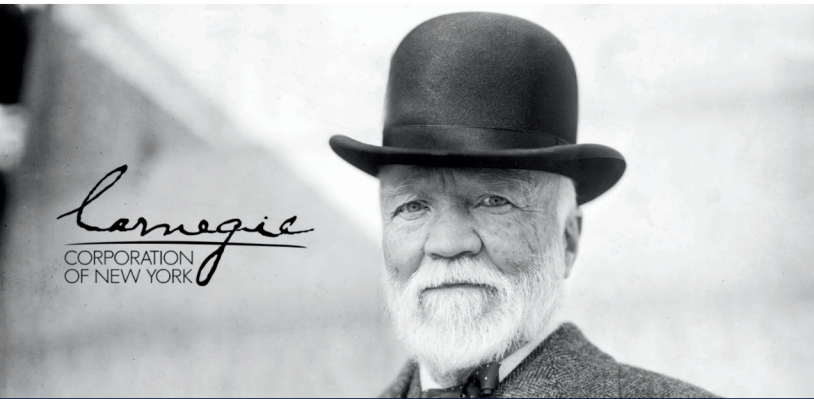
Oil City Library Will Receive Gift From Carnegie Corporation

The Oil City Library is receiving a special gift! We're one of about 1,280 Carnegie Libraries across the United States that will receive a \$10,000 gift from Carnegie Corporation of New York in celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

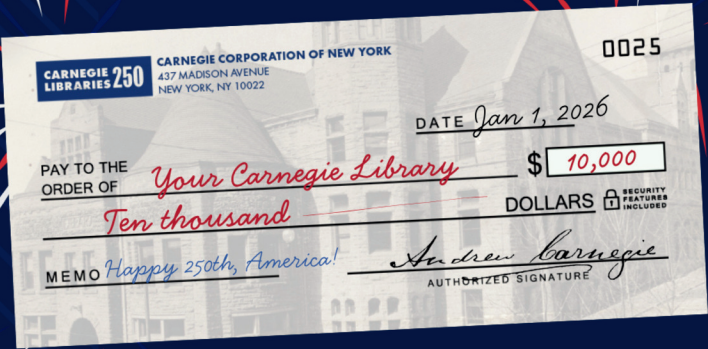
More than a century after philanthropist Andrew Carnegie helped fund the construction of 1,681 libraries nationwide, we are still serving our community. Carnegie Libraries hold a special place in American history and in the hearts of generations of Americans.

Learn more about this initiative and discover the history of our library on the Carnegie Libraries Across America map at <https://carnegie-libraries.carnegie.org/>.

Submit your memories and photos to the Carnegie Libraries digital archives: carnegielibraries.org



Just announced:
\$10,000 gifts for every Carnegie Library across the country!



LEARN MORE: [CARNegie.org/libraries](https://carnegie.org/libraries)

CARNegie LIBRARIES 250



WRITTEN AND
CREATED BY

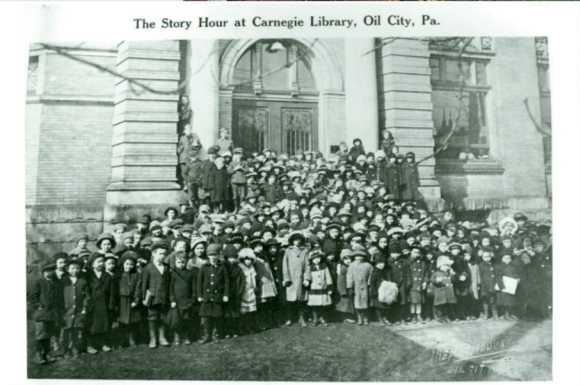
EMILY ANTKOWIAK

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.



Did you know the current entrance to the Oil City Library used to be elsewhere in the building? The original layout of the library had the steps on the left side of the building facing the Central Avenue plaza. This massive crowd, pictured "then", had just enjoyed Story Hour!

NOW



THEN

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



Libby.
The library reading app



TIP OF THE MONTH

Setting a Sleep Timer

While Libby's sleep timer is most often used to drift off to an audiobook at night, it can also be a surprisingly effective tool for managing your time during the day. The feature allows listeners to set a specific duration before playback automatically stops—perfect for anyone who wants to keep their listening (and their to-do list) on track.

Try using the sleep timer to structure daily routines or errands. For instance, set a 30-minute timer for cleaning a room or tackling a household project, or choose an hour for a round of errands like visiting the post office, gas station, or grocery store. When the audiobook stops, it's an easy cue to wrap up what you're doing or take a quick break.

Using audiobooks as a timekeeper can make even mundane tasks more enjoyable. Pairing stories or learning with everyday activities not only helps the time pass quickly but also turns ordinary moments into productive, engaging experiences.

Sleep Timer

PAUSE PLAYBACK

☾ off

CHOOSE A PRESET

Off

15 min

18 min (end of chapter)

30 min

60 min

FINE-TUNE



Next Month's **BOOK CLUB** Selections

DECEMBER 2025

Oil City Library Book Club

Oil City Library

Meets First Thursday
of the Month at 10:30 AM



**The Secret Life
of Sunflowers**
Marta Molnar



Also Available
on Libby!

The Bookmarkers Book Club

Franklin Public Library

Meets Second Tuesday
of the Month at 12:00 PM



**The Heaven &
Earth Grocery
Store**
James McBride



Also Available
on Libby!

Thursday Evening Book Club

Franklin Public Library

Meets Third Thursday
of the Month at 5:00 PM



**The Book of
Lost Names**
Kristin Harmel



Also Available
on Libby!

PLEASE, JOIN US FOR A

**COOKIE
DECORATING PARTY**

DEC 18 4 PM

FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

ALL AGES WELCOME –
BRING FAMILY & FRIENDS!
NO REGISTRATION
REQUIRED





**PAINTED
SNOWMAN
POT**

**TAKE +
MAKE**

FOR AGES 8-12

Get creative this winter with our Painted Snowman Pot Take & Make Kit, available at all three library locations! Designed for ages 8-12, this fun, hands-on activity includes everything you need to make your own cheerful snowman decoration — a small pot, paint, and brushes.

Follow the simple instructions to paint and personalize your snowman, then display your frosty friend at home or give it as a handmade gift. Kits will be available for pickup December 15th-19th, while supplies last.

No registration is required — just stop by your library and grab a kit to take home. It's the perfect cozy craft to celebrate the season and add a touch of winter cheer to your space!

**GRAB FREE KITS
AT YOUR LIBRARY**

DEC. 15-19TH



**TEEN
AFTER HOURS
NERF NIGHT**

AT THE OIL CITY LIBRARY

Nerf Night is BACK! Join us for a Nerf Battle between the stacks at the Oil City Library! This event will occur after normal business hours, from 4-6 PM. You can bring your own Nerf gun or have us provide one for you.

This event is free to attend & is open to ages 12-18. Registration is required. Stop by the Oil City Library or call (814) 678-3072 to register.

***No Rival or Mega Guns — only guns that require normal-size darts, please!

**SATURDAY
DEC. 13TH 4PM**





**TICKETS
\$5 EACH**

FRIENDS OF THE
**FRANKLIN PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

FRIENDS OF THE FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIGHT UP NIGHT COOKIE WALK

SATURDAY, NOV. 22ND | 11AM - 3PM
AT THE FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Franklin Public Library will be hosting their annual Cookie Walk fundraiser during Light Up Night in downtown Franklin on Saturday, November 22nd. Stop by the library between 11:00AM - 3:00PM to purchase cookies from local bakers at \$8.00/dozen. Build your own dozen & mix and match from several different varieties. All proceeds benefit the Franklin Public Library. Thank you in advance for your support!

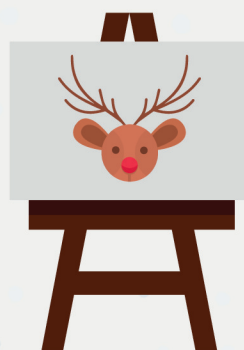
Tickets are now on sale for the Friends of the Franklin Public Library's Lottery Wreath! This gorgeous holiday wreath is loaded with various PA Lottery tickets, giving you numerous chances to win some extra cash for the holiday season. Tickets for this raffle can be purchased at the Franklin Public Library for \$5 each or 5 for \$20 until December 16th, 2025. All proceeds benefit the Franklin Public Library. Questions? Email fol.franklin@gmail.com.



OIL CITY'S

Christmas PAST

SAT. DECEMBER 6TH
OIL CITY LIBRARY

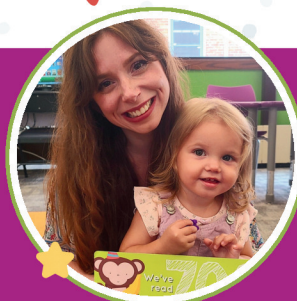


**OIL CITY
STUDENT ART SHOW**
9:00AM - 3:00PM

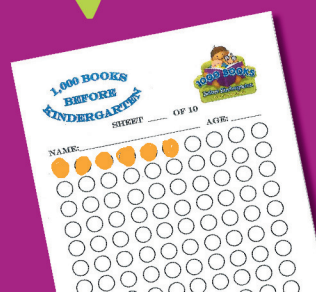
Artwork by Oil City students grades K-12 on display throughout the main level of the library. **Sponsored by Oil City Area School District**



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



These readers hit milestones recently!



Why Participate?

There's no better time to lay the groundwork for independent learning than early childhood. Reading 1,000 books before kindergarten is a low pressure way to close the vocabulary gap & develop the early literacy skills so crucial to success in school. Any child can participate as long as they are not yet in kindergarten.

Register your child in person at your library or online at www.oilregionlibraries.org/youth/1000-books-before-kindergarten/



Support the giving tree at Your Library



at Oil City
Library



& Franklin
Public Library

pick a tag 

Choose a tag (or a few!) from the library's Giving Tree. The tags list items the library needs. Items include supplies for programs, office & cleaning supplies, etc.

purchase item 

Purchase the item(s) on your tag(s) wherever you'd like.

bring your item to the library 

Gift your item(s) to the library by bringing them to the front desk.



SNOWMAN PAINTED PAVER

Join us at our next Adult Craft Night with Terrie at all three libraries to make your very own Snowman Painted Paver! Participating is free & all materials are provided.

Oil City Library

Wednesday, December 3rd | 5:00 - 7:00 PM  FULL

Monday, December 8th | 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Cooperstown Public Library

Thursday, December 4th | 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Franklin Public Library

Monday, December 8th | 4:00 - 6:00 PM



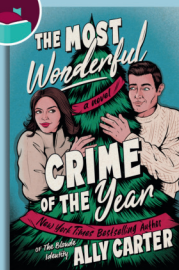
Spots Are Limited – call or stop
by your library to register!



CHRISTMAS IS ALL AROUND

Martha Waters

Former child star Charlotte flees to London to escape her Christmas-movie fame, only to find herself drawn back to the holiday spirit when she visits the cozy English village where it all began. Amid festive lights & unexpected romance, she discovers that some traditions are worth rediscovering.



THE MOST WONDERFUL CRIME OF THE YEAR

Ally Carter

Rival mystery authors are snowed in at a lavish writer's retreat when their famous hostess vanishes without a trace. Forced to work together to solve the case, they uncover clues, sparks, & maybe something even more surprising than the truth.

COZY HOLIDAY TITLES AT YOUR LIBRARY



MERRY CHRISTMAS YOU FILTHY ANIMAL

Meghan Quinn

A grumpy tree-farm owner & his overly cheerful competitor are determined to out-sell each other this holiday season. But when rivalry turns to romance, they'll have to decide if love is the real prize under the tree.



A WINTER WISH

Emily Stone

Lexie inherits half her late father's holiday travel company—and must run it with his brooding business partner, Theo. As they journey through twinkling destinations & family secrets, they begin to realize their partnership might lead to something more.

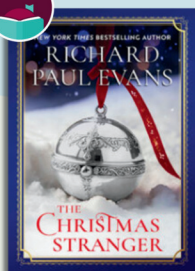
Season's READINGS



THE CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

Laurie Gilmore

Kira impulsively buys a struggling tree farm despite hating Christmas, only to be snowed in with a charming stranger. Between small-town charm, cocoa, & carols, she might find the holiday spirit—and love—she's been avoiding.



A CHRISTMAS STRANGER

Richard Paul Evans

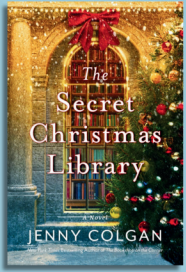
Still grieving the loss of his family, Paul wants nothing to do with Christmas—until a mysterious visitor arrives on his doorstep. Their encounter sets off a quiet miracle of hope, healing, & renewed faith in the season's magic.



A FERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Debbie Macomber

When a ferry delay leaves passengers stranded on Puget Sound, two siblings each find their lives unexpectedly changed by newfound connections. What begins as a ruined holiday soon becomes a heartwarming reminder that love always finds a way.



THE SECRET CHRISTMAS LIBRARY

Jenny Colgan

A young woman feels stuck in life until a mysterious book leads her to reconsider a decision she made years ago. As she rediscovers an old love & the path not taken, she begins to see new possibilities for her future. Cozy, heartwarming, & filled with holiday magic, this story is about second chances & believing in yourself.



THE CHRISTMAS HOUSE

Beverly Lewis

A woman who returns home for the holidays uncovers long-held family memories tied to a cherished house. As she reconnects with loved ones and faces the past, she finds healing, hope, & renewed faith. It's a gentle, heartwarming tale filled with tradition & Christmas spirit.



MY BELOVED

Jan Karon

My Beloved continues the beloved Mitford series as Father Tim reflects on faith, love, & the joys & challenges of everyday life. Through heartfelt community connections & personal growth, he finds renewed purpose & hope. It's a gentle, uplifting story filled with warmth, humor, & spiritual reflection.



GOOD SPIRITS

B.K. Borison

A small-town bar owner & a woman looking for a fresh start have chemistry that grows with every moment they share. As they navigate personal challenges & emotional baggage, their connection becomes a source of comfort, laughter, & unexpected romance. It's a warm, cozy holiday love story full of charm & feel-good moments.



THE CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

Holly Cassidy

A driven consultant & a holiday-loving craftsman clash when she's sent to revitalize his struggling Christmas shop. As they spend time together creating festive magic, their opposites-attract dynamic turns into something deeper. It's a fun, warm holiday romance about slowing down, embracing joy, & finding love in unexpected places.



CHRISTMAS WITH THE QUEEN

Hazel Gaynor & Heather Webb

A young woman travels to London for the holidays & unexpectedly meets the Queen, leading to a magical & life-changing experience. Through this extraordinary encounter, she discovers courage, hope, & the true spirit of Christmas. It's a heartwarming, charming story full of festive cheer & inspiration.



LIBRARY LOTT

2026 tickets are
available NOW!

EACH TICKET
\$20
ONLY 1000 SOLD

OCTOBER WINNERS!



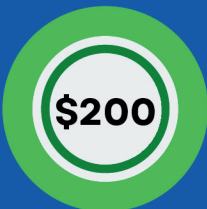
NO WINNER

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



NO WINNER

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



DEB W.
OIL CITY, 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.

Oil City & Franklin Libraries Welcome New Staff Members

We're happy to have recently welcomed
two new staff members to our team at two
different libraries!

Bethany is our newest Library Assistant at
the Franklin Public Library. She settled into
her role during the month of October, so
you may have already had the pleasure of
meeting her!

Jesse is our newest Library Assistant at the
Oil City Library. Jesse just recently started,
so if you see him around, make sure to say
hello!

**WELCOME
TO THE TEAM!**



EPIC WORLDBUILDING

From Cosmic Conflict to Hobbit Holes

A 3-PART WRITING
WORKSHOP SERIES AT THE
OIL CITY LIBRARY



WITH
*Tracey
Lander-Garrett*

Design your own world. This class isn't just
for novelists; it's for artists, gamers,
gamemasters, puppet makers, poets, &
anyone interested in creation & story.
Because utopias are boring, we will frame
each part of the class around conflict. The
kind of conflict you're interested in
exploring will dictate the type of world
you're building.

Join Bridge Literary Arts Center teaching
artist Tracey Lander-Garrett for this 3-part
journey into using your imagination. Free
& open to the public!

Planet Particulars
TUE. NOV. 25
6:00-7:30PM

Civilizations & Cultures
TUE. DEC. 9
6:00-7:30PM

Story Structures
TUE. DEC. 23
6:00-7:30PM

SPONSORED BY 
BRIDGELITERARYARTSCENTER.ORG

Winter

LIBRARY PROGRAM

Break

ALL LIBRARY PROGRAMS
ON A BREAK

DEC. 22 - JAN. 9

PROGRAMS RESUME JAN 12TH

ADULT
CRAFT
CLUB

Winter 2025

at Oil City & Franklin Libraries!

We can't wait to see you for more crafting fun! This December, we will be making Snow Globes! 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!

Holiday Library Closures

ORLA locations will have the following closures in November & December in observance of the Thanksgiving & Christmas holidays:

November 26.....Oil City Library Closing @ 5PM

November 27.....All Locations Closed

November 28.....All Locations Closed

November 29.....All Locations Closed

December 24.....All Locations Closed

December 25.....All Locations Closed

January 1.....All Locations Closed

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season & we'll look forward to seeing you when we reopen!



Snow Globes

December 15

5:00PM

OIL CITY LIBRARY

December 17

4:00PM | FRANKLIN
PUBLIC LIBRARY

December 17

5:00PM

OIL CITY LIBRARY

FEATURED RESOURCES



libby
The library reading app.

Jenna's Faves
Read With Jenna Book Club Picks

Books featured: *MOON AN*, *REMARKABLY BRIGHT CREATURES*, *SEARCHING FOR FRIENDS*, *THE NAMES*, *THE DARK WHITTAKER*, *THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE COMMON CAMPUS*, *BUCKEYE PATRICK RYAN*, *SWEET RIVER*, *THE NIGHT*.

READ WITH JENNA



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

BAKING ACCESSORIES



In need of a special-shaped cake pan or expensive decorating accessories? The library's got you covered! Cake pans & baking accessories are free to check out with your library card to save you time & money. Items currently available include a dinosaur cake pan, a letters & numbers cake pan set, a 3D sports ball cake pan set, a revolving cake stand, decorating accessories & more!

80's comedies



Nostalgic & Funny
80's Films on

kanopy

Movie posters shown: *FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF*, *THE EXCELLENT YEAR*, *THE NAKED GUN*, *GARP*, *SPIES LIKE US*, *MYSTIC PIZZA*, *COCKLE DUNDEE*, *BEVERLY HILLS*.

FIND US ONLINE

oilregionlibraries.org



Libby, Baking Accessories & Kanopy are available to you for
FREE with your library card at oilregionlibraries.org