

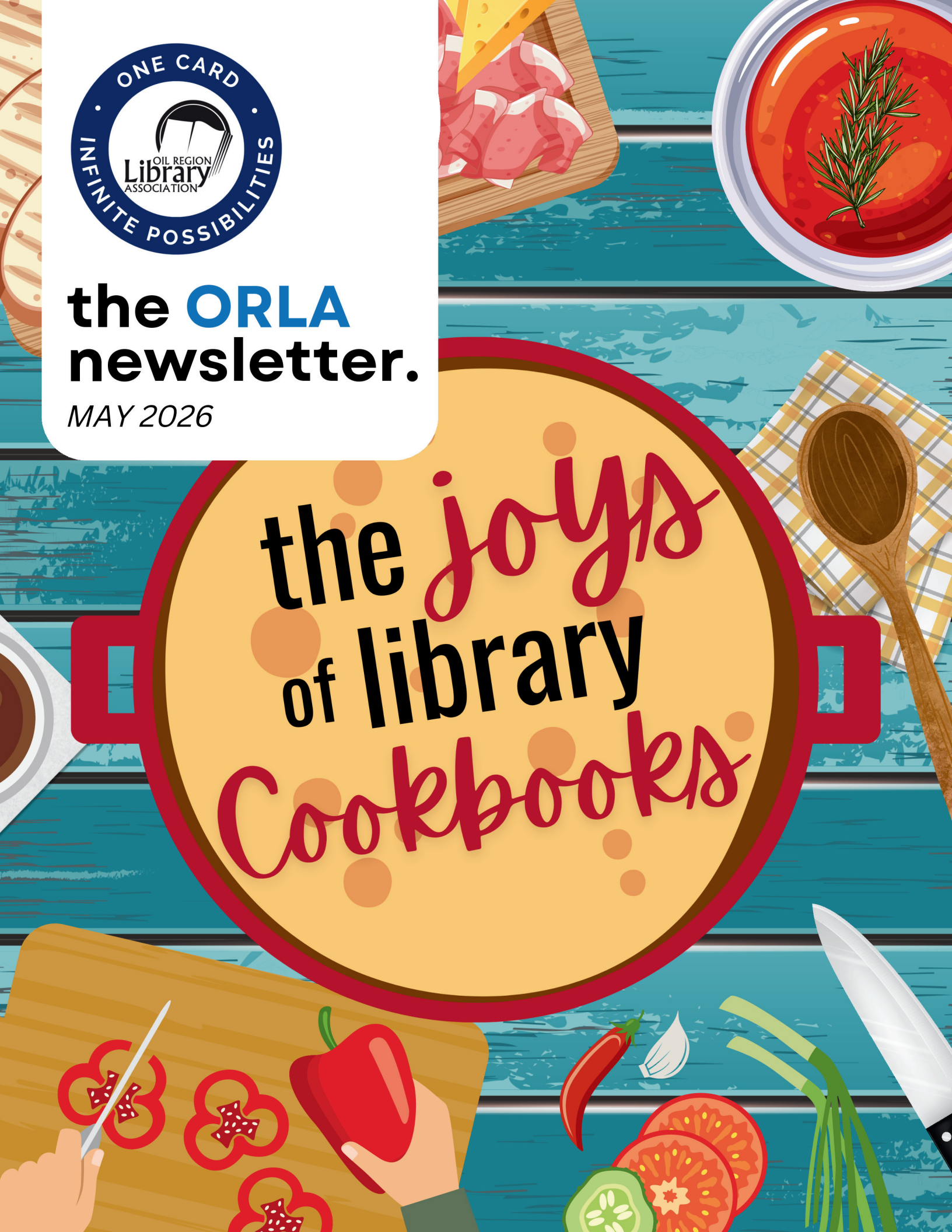


**the ORLA
newsletter.**

MAY 2026

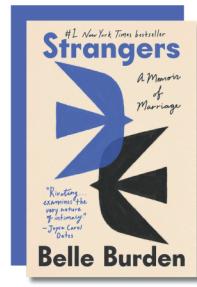
The graphic is a large yellow circle with a thick red border, set against a background of blue horizontal stripes. Inside the circle, the text "the joys of library Cookbooks" is written. "the" and "of library" are in a bold, black, sans-serif font. "joys" and "Cookbooks" are in a red, cursive script font. There are several small orange circles scattered around the text.

**the joys
of library
Cookbooks**



WHAT WE'RE READING

Available on Libby

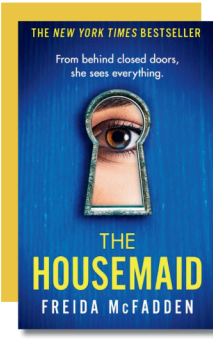


STRANGERS ★★★★★

BELLE BURDEN

In March 2020, Belle Burden was safe & secure with her family at their house on Martha's Vineyard, navigating the early days of the pandemic together – building fires in the late afternoons, drinking whiskey sours, making roast chicken. Then, with no warning or explanation, her husband of 20 years announced that he was leaving her. Overnight, her caring, steady partner became a man she hardly recognized. He exited his life with her like an actor shrugging off a costume. In Strangers, Burden revisits her marriage, searching for clues that her husband was not who she always thought he was. As she examines her relationship through a new lens, she reckons with her own family history & the lessons she intuited about how a woman is expected to behave in the face of betrayal. Through all of it, she is transformed. The discreet, compliant woman she once was gives way to someone braver, someone determined to use her voice. With unflinching honesty & profound grace, Burden charts a path through heartbreak to show the power of a woman who refuses to give up on love. Strangers is a stunning, deeply moving, compulsively readable memoir heralding the arrival of a thrilling new literary talent.

"I'm very divided by this book. On one hand, the author is excellent at writing & really makes me feel for her situation. Her husband left her with no warning, wants nothing to do with their kids, & is trying to take everything in the divorce. Everyone knows someone who has gone through a situation like this or has even gone through it themselves. On the other hand, she has an immense amount of privilege & wealth, which makes this very unrelatable. She has 2 homes, one in NYC & the other in Martha's Vineyard, famous parents, & consistently talks about how her tennis club is judging her for the divorce. I felt whiplash reading through some of the parts. Still, a good & quick read, if rather sad." Amanda Barker, Franklin Public Library Branch Manager



THE HOUSEMAID ★★★★★

FREIDA MCFADDEN

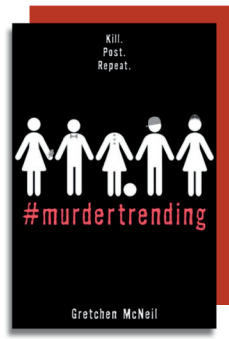
"Welcome to the family," Nina Winchester says as I shake her elegant, manicured hand. I smile politely, gazing around the marble hallway. Working here is my last chance to start fresh. I can pretend to be whoever I like. But I'll soon learn that the Winchesters' secrets are far more dangerous than my own... Every day, I clean the Winchesters' beautiful house top to bottom. I collect their daughter from school. And I cook a delicious meal for the whole family before heading up to eat alone in my tiny room on the top floor. I try to ignore how Nina makes a mess just to watch me clean it up. How she tells strange lies about her own daughter. And how her husband, Andrew, seems more broken every day. But as I look into Andrew's handsome brown eyes, so full of pain, it's hard not to imagine what it would be like to live Nina's life: the walk-in closet, the fancy car, the perfect husband. I only try on one of Nina's pristine white dresses once. To see what it's like. But she soon finds out... and by the time I realize my attic bedroom door only locks from the outside, it's far too late. But I reassure myself: the Winchesters don't know who I really am. They don't know what I'm capable of...

"It's popular for a reason! The writing is not the best, but the storyline and twists & turns kept me engaged. Honestly, sometimes it's nice to read the equivalent of eating a sleeve of cookies for dinner instead of having a full meal. Wild ending, too, though maybe tied up a little too neatly to be believable. If you're looking for something fun, spicy, & quick, this is the book for you." Amanda Barker, Franklin Public Library Branch Manager

★★★★★ #MURDERTRENDING

GRETCHEN MCNEIL

When seventeen-year-old Dee Guerrero wakes up in a haze, lying on the ground of a dimly lit warehouse, she realizes she's about to be the next victim of the app. Knowing hardened criminals are getting a taste of their own medicine in this place is one thing, but Dee refuses to roll over and die for a heinous crime she didn't commit. Can Dee and her newly formed posse, the Death Row Breakfast Club, prove she's innocent before she ends up wrongfully murdered for the world to see? Or will The Postman's cast of executioners kill them off one by one?



"Do you enjoy action-filled books with bits of romance and lots of mystery? Then #Murdertrending by Gretchen McNeil is the perfect book for you! This book is about an island filled with murderers that gets livestreamed 24/7, featuring the main character, Dee, who is fighting to survive." Chelsea D., ORLA Volunteer

JOIN US FOR AN

Author Talk WITH Joe Taylor

AUTHOR OF
Eating My Own Words



**Wednesday,
May 6th
5:00 PM**
at the
Oil City Library

ALSO FEATURING...

A specialty Italian pasta dish, charcuterie, & wine to share!

Joe Taylor's *Eating My Own Words* isn't just about food, it's about people, memory, & what happens when you pull up a chair and listen. The meals in these pages, including his grandmother's meatballs, lox & bagels from a favorite Pittsburgh deli, country cooking in the Pennsylvania Wilds, or something simple from his own kitchen table, aren't the real story. They're the thread that ties everything together, the open door that lets Joe explore where he's been, who he's known, & what it's all meant.



JOE TAYLOR retired in 2020 after 6 decades in radio, including hosting talk & music shows, & newscasts in markets from Brattleboro, VT, to Pittsburgh, programming management in Detroit, & general management in Lancaster, PA, Warren, & Springfield, OH. He then consulted stations in OH & PA, including Clarion, Oil City, St. Marys, Coudersport, & DuBois.

Since his retirement, Joe Taylor has published 5 books, "In The Twist Of The Dial...What happened to radio, 1960 to 2020?" "I'm Just Lucky To Own My Own Car," a collection of observations & musings. A third, "A Pepper and Egg Sandwich on American Bread," depicted his early life: as an Italian-American boy growing up in a non-ethnic neighborhood & school, then spending the rest of his time with his very Italian family. "One More Then I've Really Gotta Go" looked at aging from various perspectives, ranging from sentimental to sardonic. His latest, "Eating My Own Words," is a culinary memoir, an appreciation of food at our table & in our lives. Joe resides in DuBois, PA.



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.




Did you know that before residing at River Ridge, Joseph Sibley lived on Elk Street in Franklin? His home was located where the Franklin Post Office stands today. The house was moved from Elk Street to Otter Street in the 1930s. Some of you might remember seeing the "haunted house" on Otter Street!

THEN



NOW

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



the joys of library Cookbooks

reasons to borrow + recipes to try

In an era dominated by digital resources and endless online cooking tutorials, there's still something charming and valuable about flipping through the pages of a physical cookbook borrowed from your local library. This age-old practice offers a myriad of reasons why checking cookbooks out from the library is a fantastic idea. Here are some of the key advantages:

sustainable + budget-friendly

In a world that's increasingly conscious of environmental issues, borrowing cookbooks is a sustainable choice. It reduces the need for more paper and resources to be used in publishing new books. Cookbook purchases can be an investment (most hardcover cookbooks range from \$20-\$50 to purchase), and sometimes they don't live up to the expectations set by appealing cover photos and tantalizing recipe descriptions. By borrowing from the library, you can experiment with a wide array of recipes and cuisines without breaking the bank.

quality control

Before investing in a cookbook, you can test its recipes from the library. Not all cookbooks are created equal. Some are meticulously tested and authored by renowned chefs, ensuring a high level of consistency and reliability in their recipes. Others may lack the same level of rigor. Some cookbooks often suggest specific ingredients that might not be readily available in your area. If you find that the cookbook consistently offers dishes you enjoy, you can then make an informed decision about purchasing it.

preserving culinary heritage

Over the years, countless family recipes and regional specialties may have been forgotten or not passed down to younger generations. Historical cookbooks found in libraries often contain recipes that have fallen out of popular use. By

borrowing these books, you can rediscover and resurrect these forgotten recipes, ensuring that they remain a part of our culinary heritage.

less clutter

Cookbooks can take up a lot of space in your kitchen, and they often end up gathering dust on the shelves. Borrowing from the library allows you to enjoy new recipes without adding to your home's clutter.

no internet needed

Unlike online recipes, library cookbooks don't require an internet connection. This ensures that you have access to recipes even when your internet is unreliable.

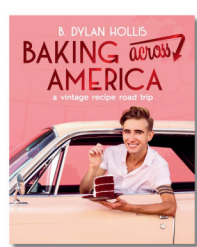


Checking cookbooks out from the library is a practice that offers numerous benefits, both practical and cultural. It allows you to explore the culinary world affordably, sustainably, and within the welcoming community atmosphere of the library.

The next time you're searching for a new recipe or seeking to broaden your culinary horizons, consider taking a trip to the library, where you're sure to find a cookbook to satisfy your culinary curiosity!



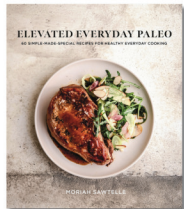
Find Library Cookbook Recommendations on the Next Page →



BAKING ACROSS AMERICA

a vintage recipe roadtrip

Baking Across America takes readers on a fun trip across the country through classic recipes and old-fashioned desserts. With plenty of humor and stories along the way, B. Dylan Hollis shares the history behind favorite treats while making the recipes feel easy and inviting to try at home.



ELEVATED EVERYDAY PALEO

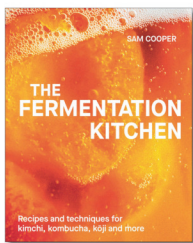
60 simple-made-special recipes for healthy everyday cooking

Elevated Everyday Paleo takes a simple, whole-food approach to eating and shows how to make paleo-style meals feel a little more exciting. Moriah Sawtelle shares easy, everyday recipes that focus on fresh ingredients and practical cooking, without making things complicated.

THE FERMENTATION KITCHEN

recipes and techniques for kimchi, kombucha, koji and more

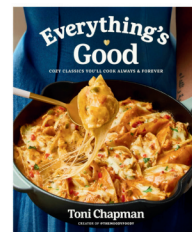
The Fermentation Kitchen is a friendly guide to making fermented foods at home, from sourdough and yogurt to kimchi and kombucha. Sam Cooper breaks the process down into simple steps, helping readers feel confident trying new techniques while showing how fermentation can add flavor and creativity to everyday cooking.



EVERYTHING'S GOOD

cozy classics you'll cook always & forever

Everything's Good is a feel-good cookbook full of comforting, flavorful recipes that are meant to be shared & enjoyed without stress. Toni Chapman keeps things approachable and fun, encouraging home cooks to trust their instincts & enjoy the process as much as the food.



THE LAST SWEET BITE

stories and recipes of culinary heritage lost and found

The Last Sweet Bite explores the history and culture of desserts across the Middle East, sharing both personal stories & traditional recipes along the way. Michael Shaikh shows how sweets can connect people to family, memory, & place, making this book as meaningful as it is delicious.



FOOLPROOF BATCH COOKING

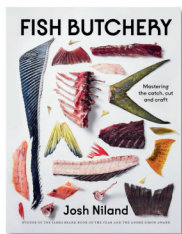
60 simple meals to save you money, time and effort

Foolproof Batch Cooking makes meal prep feel simple and doable, with recipes designed so you can cook once and eat well for days. Katie Marshall focuses on easy, practical ideas that save time and help take the stress out of figuring out what's for dinner.

FISH BUTCHERY

mastering the catch, cut and craft

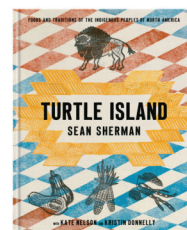
Fish Butchery is all about seeing fish in a totally new way and learning how to use more of it in the kitchen. Josh Niland breaks things down into approachable techniques and recipes that help home cooks feel more confident working with seafood and trying something a little different.



TURTLE ISLAND

foods and traditions of the Indigenous Peoples of North America

Turtle Island is a celebration of Indigenous foodways, focusing on ingredients and cooking traditions that predate colonization. Sean Sherman shares recipes and stories that highlight Native American cuisine in a fresh, modern way while honoring its deep cultural roots.



MAGNOLIA BAKERY

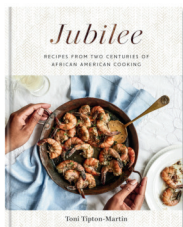
icebox desserts

Magnolia Bakery Icebox Desserts is packed with easy, no-bake desserts that come together in the fridge instead of the oven. Think creamy pies, layered cakes, & puddings that are simple to make & perfect when you want something sweet without a lot of fuss.



OTTOLENGHI COMFORT

Ottolenghi Comfort is all about the kind of food that feels warm, familiar, and satisfying, with plenty of bold flavors along the way. Yotam Ottolenghi shares recipes inspired by home cooking and shared meals, but gives them his signature creative twist, making comfort food feel fresh and exciting.



JUBILEE

recipes from two centuries of African American cooking

Jubilee is a joyful collection of African American recipes that highlights the history, flavor, and creativity behind the food. Toni Tipton-Martin shares both classic dishes and the stories behind them, showing how these recipes have been loved and passed down through generations.

Borrow one of these titles from your library & let us know your favorite recipes!



Franklin Library's Littles & Big Yoga workshop was wildly popular for families!



Oil City Library's Family Nerf Night saw about 50 participants of all ages!



Family Movie Night-goers enjoyed the film "Dog Man" in Oil City Library's Library Hall.



Franklin Library held a sale in their 3rd floor attic space to benefit the library.



A poetry open mic, featuring the Jazz band Catro, was held in Oil City's Library Hall.



Bella Cucina Restaurant generously donated 10% of their proceeds to ORLA from Tuesday, April 21st.

REFLECTING ON

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

April 19-25, 2026

Thank you to everyone who supported us during National Library Week last month! Whether you donated, purchased raffle tickets, stopped by to visit, attended a program, or helped spread the word about library services and events – we truly appreciate you!

Programs and events like those held during National Library Week are successful because of the support of patrons like you. Our libraries serve people of all ages and from all walks of life, and we strive to offer something for everyone.

Your continued support helps us create welcoming spaces for learning, connection, and community.



ORLA RECEIVES

Golden Shovel Award

FROM FRANKLIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ORLA was presented with a Golden Shovel Award from the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce for completing renovations to the Oil City Library's historic theater, Library Hall.

Golden Shovel Awards are presented by the Franklin Chamber each year to celebrate businesses for new ownership, renovations, anniversaries, new locations, mergers & more.

Thank you to the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce for this recognition!

PRESCHOOL



PROM



SATURDAY, MAY 9TH

Get fancy & dance-y! Attendees are invited to get dressed up, dance, and make paper crowns. This program is free & open to ages 1 to 6, accompanied by their caregivers.



AT THE OIL CITY LIBRARY IN LIBRARY HALL 11:00AM - 1:00PM



REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register at the Oil City Library
or by calling (814) 678-3072



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

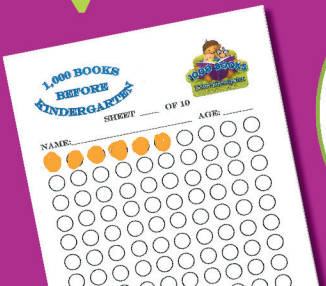


These readers hit milestones recently!

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/



LIBRARY LOTT

2026 tickets are
available NOW!

EACH TICKET
\$20
ONLY 1000 SOLD

APRIL WINNERS!



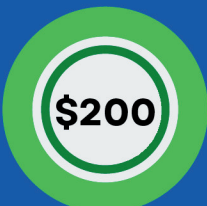
NO WINNER

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!



NO WINNER

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

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 2026.

TEEN AFTER HOURS

CAPTURE THE MOON

@ THE OIL CITY LIBRARY



**STEAL THE MOON.
(IF YOU CAN)**

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT TEEN AFTER HOURS EVENT AT THE OIL CITY LIBRARY ON FRIDAY, MAY 15TH, FROM 7:00-9:00 PM! GET READY FOR THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE: TEEN AFTER HOURS - CAPTURE THE MOON!

This fun twist on classic flashlight tag has teams racing to steal the opposing side's "moon" while dodging beams of light. Stay hidden, move fast, and don't get caught! The first team to bring the moon back to their base wins. This event is free & open to ages 12-18, & will be held outside of normal library hours.

Stop in or call the Oil City Library to register at (814) 678-3072.



Spring 2026



Paper Dahlia Flower

May 18

5:00 PM

OIL CITY LIBRARY

May 20

4:00 PM

FRANKLIN PUBLIC
LIBRARY

at Oil City & Franklin Libraries!

Join us this Spring for more Adult Craft Club! This month, we are making Paper Dahlia Flowers. All sessions are free to attend & all materials will be provided.

REGISTRATION IS OPEN NOW!

Oil City's program will be held at 5:00 PM. Franklin's program will be held at 4:00 PM. Visit or call the Franklin Public Library (814-432-5062) or the Oil City Library (814-678-3072) to register today!



Libby.
The library reading app

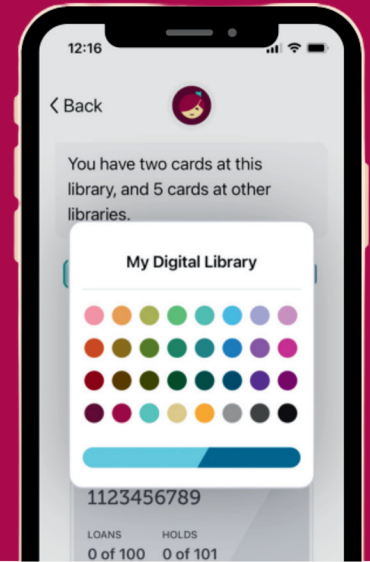


TIP OF THE MONTH

Customizing Library Cards

Customize the colors of your libraries in Libby to help differentiate your cards if some look too similar. Go to the center menu at the bottom of the app, tap **Manage Cards**, tap **Personalize** under the card, then **change your library card's colors**.

You can also rename your library card. For example, "CCFLS" is the name of a library system, but to be more familiar, you may want to change it to something easier to remember, like "Crawford County Libraries."



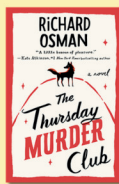
Next Month's **BOOK CLUB** Selections

JUNE 2026

Oil City Library Book Club

Oil City Library

Meets First Thursday
of the Month at 10:30 AM



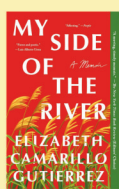
**The Thursday
Murder Club**
Richard Osman



The Bookmarkers Book Club

Franklin Public Library

Meets Second Tuesday
of the Month at 12:00 PM

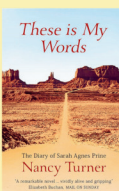


**My Side of the
River**
Elizabeth
Camarillo
Gutierrez

Thursday Evening Book Club

Franklin Public Library

Meets Third Thursday
of the Month at 5:00 PM



**These is My
Words**
Nancy Turner



Join us for a fun-filled Game Night at the library! Whether you're a seasoned strategist or just looking to relax & have fun, we'll have a variety of board games for all ages & skill levels. Bring your friends or come solo—there's always room at the table!

**FREE
FOR
ALL!**

1ST & 3RD WEDNESDAYS
4:30 PM - 6:45 PM
OIL CITY LIBRARY



FEATURED RESOURCES

libby
The library reading app.

Culinary Cozies

These mouth-watering mysteries will keep you guessing!

OUTDOOR RECREATION ITEMS

Thanks to the ARC Inclusion Library, there are plenty of ways for you to have fun outside this summer with items checked out for free with your library card! Some available items include:

- Football
- Basketball
- Bocce Ball
- Telescope
- Pickleball Set
- Kan Jam
- Disc Golf Set
- Tennis Set
- Ladder Toss
- Cornhole Boards
- Fishing Poles
- Horseshoes
- Bird Viewing Kit
- Golf Clubs
- Lawn Darts
- Geocaching Kit
- Croquet
- & more!

a serving of
FOODIE FILMS

Movies & Documentaries on the Menu this month on

kanopy



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

Monday.....9:00am-7:00pm
Tuesday.....9:00am-7:00pm
Wednesday.....9:00am-7:00pm
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.....11:00am-4:00pm
Sunday.....CLOSED

FIND US ONLINE

oilregionlibraries.org



Libby, Outdoor Recreation Items & Kanopy are available to you for FREE with your library card at oilregionlibraries.org