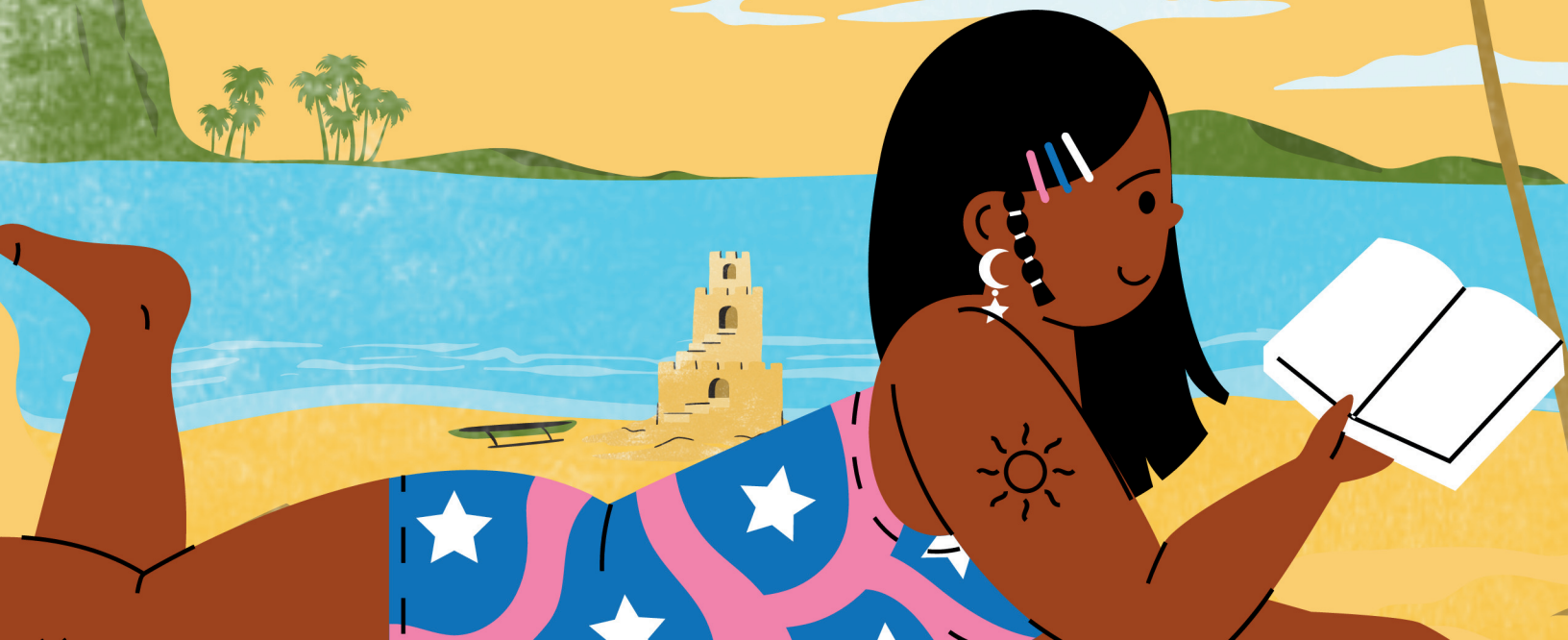




the **ORLA** newsletter.

JULY 2026

BEACH reads



WHAT WE'RE READING

 Available on Libby



THE EVERLASTING ★★★★★

ALIX E. HARROW 

Sir Una Everlasting was Dominion's greatest hero: the orphaned girl who became a knight, who died for queen and country. Her legend lives on in songs and stories, in children's books and recruiting posters – but her life as it truly happened has been forgotten. Centuries later, Owen Mallory – failed soldier, struggling scholar – falls in love with the tale of Una Everlasting. Her story takes him to war, to the archives—and then into the past itself. Una and Owen are tangled together in time, bound to retell the same story over and over again, no matter what it costs. But that story always ends the same way. If they want to rewrite Una's legend – if they want to tell a different story – they'll have to rewrite history itself.

“A romantic time loop that starts & ends beneath the yew tree. I truly enjoyed this mixture of science fiction & fantasy, & found the protagonists endearing. Alix Harrow's poetic writing style really elevated my experience.” Daidre Green, Teen Services Coordinator & Youth Services Assistant, Oil Region Library Association

ON THE OTHER SIDE IS MARCH

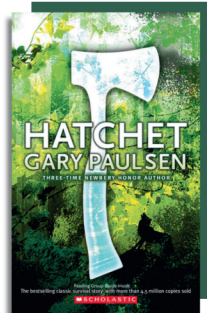
SÓLRÚN MICHELSEN ★★★★★

I'm a woman in my early sixties. Somewhere between late and never. No longer the career woman, mother, housewife, and lover doing it all... Now I'm wife, mother, grandmother, and my mother's mother. But I still have to satisfy all the demands placed on me. So begins Sólrún Michelsen's tender & darkly witty exploration of what she considers to be the strange, remaining leg of life's journey. Her kids are grown & out of the house, & she's faced with a time that, for years, she always seemed to be looking toward—a time when she wasn't needed by somebody or something. But now, with her mother's declining health, she finds herself revisiting childhood scenes, family hymns, & folk songs—revealing a lifetime of love, duty, awe, & regret. She tends to her mother amid the stark rhythms of Faroese life, waiting for a

new nursing home that never arrives, & confronts the reality of being part of the "army of women" who inherit care. In her grief & private goodbye to her mother, however, is also a gorgeous meditation about life, as translator Marita Thomsen says in her afterword, "in its ragged mundane glory." A lyrical portrait of caretaking & the invisible labor of motherhood, *On the Other Side Is March* is a tribute to caretakers across generational lines, as well as the rich oral traditions of singing & storytelling that kept the Faroese language alive centuries before its standard written form.

“A lyrical & powerful meditation on motherhood, aging, family, & looking back over the past at the end of life. I loved the book; it was reflective, but never went into sappiness. The author is very matter-of-fact about the loneliness & joy that come with both motherhood & age, without overwhelming the work. There is a balance between truth & beauty here. I keep using so many descriptive words to try to get across the effect on me, but I think I'm coming up short. I recommend it!” Amanda Barker, Franklin Public Library Branch Manager

 ★★★★★ **HATCHET**
GARY PAULSEN

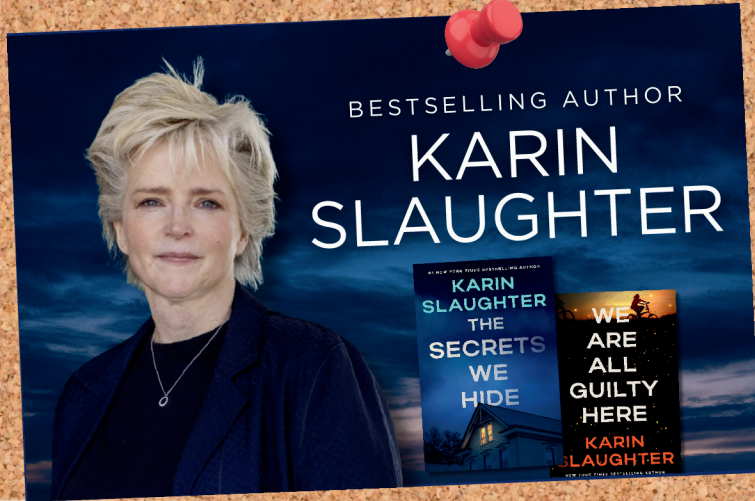


Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake – and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure. Brian had been distraught over his parents' impending divorce and the secret he carries about his mother, but now he is truly desolate and alone. Exhausted, terrified, and hungry, Brian struggles to find food and make a shelter for himself. He has no special knowledge of the woods, and he must find a new kind of awareness and patience as he meets each day's challenges. Is the water safe to drink? Are the berries he finds poisonous? Slowly, Brian learns to turn adversity to his advantage – and an invading porcupine unexpectedly shows him how to make fire, a devastating tornado shows him how to retrieve supplies from the submerged airplane. Most of all, Brian leaves behind the self-pity he has felt about his predicament as he summons the courage to stay alive. A story of survival and of transformation, this riveting book has sparked many a reader's interest in venturing into the wild.

“I like it when he makes progress! I would recommend this book to others.” Theoy, Lover of Books at the Franklin Public Library

upcoming author talks

You're invited to join us every month for free, virtual, live discussions with bestselling authors! Watch with us at the Oil City Library or online from home & submit your questions to the author ahead of time.



TUE. JULY 14TH | 7:00PM | IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

Small Towns & Big Secrets: In Conversation with Bestselling Author Karin Slaughter Join us for a thrilling evening with acclaimed author Karin Slaughter as we chat about her North Falls series, consisting of *We Are All Guilty Here*, in which two teenage girls vanish in rural Georgia, & her upcoming sequel, *The Secrets We Hide*: Tuesday, July 14th at 7 PM at the Oil City Library or online via digital live-stream.



THU. JULY 30TH | 2:00PM | IN-PERSON OR ONLINE

Dragons, Castles, & an Irresistible Princess Bent on Revenge with Katherine Rundell Katherine Rundell's second thrilling installment in the *Impossible Creatures* series involves castles, dragons, and revenge—the things of which great stories are made. Join the discussion online on Thursday, July 30th at 2 PM at the Oil City Library or online via digital live-stream.

REGISTER NOW AT

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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.



This view down E. 1st Street in Oil City shows many recognizable storefronts. Across from the Latonia Theater was the Welker and Maxwell building, Cribbs Quality Foods, Isaly's, and Famoore's, among others. Today, you'll find this same stretch also lined with business, including Core Goods, Gates & Burns Realty, Friedhaber's, & Baked Goods from Heaven!

THEN



NOW

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

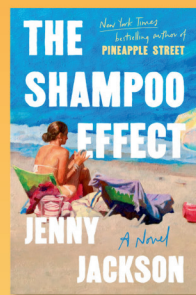
BEACH reads



JUNE BABY

SHANNON GARVEY

Years after spending a life-changing summer on Block Island with a renowned photographer who became her mentor, Ruth returns to confront long-buried memories & family secrets. Set against a coastal New England backdrop, this debut novel explores grief, first love, identity, & the choices that shape a life.



THE SHAMPOO EFFECT

JENNY JACKSON

Caroline Lash, the daughter of a famous novelist, leaves NYC for a writing fellowship in a small Massachusetts beach town. As she becomes entwined in the lives, friendships, & romances of a close-knit community, her own ambitions & the novel she's secretly writing threaten to upend everything.



THE MISSED CONNECTION

TIA WILLIAMS

Casting director Sasha Cruz is used to finding the perfect match for everyone except herself. After a magical encounter with a handsome stranger on a flight to Paris, she becomes determined to find him again—but her search leads her into an unexpected mystery & a complicated partnership with a private investigator from her past.

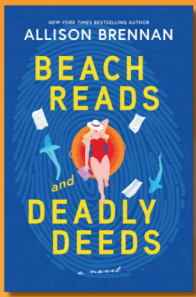


BEACH READ

EMILY HENRY

January Andrews, a romance writer who has lost faith in happy endings, finds herself living next door to her former college rival, literary novelist Augustus Everett. To overcome writer's block, they challenge each other to write in the other's genre, leading to unexpected discoveries about love, grief, & themselves.





BEACH READS AND DEADLY DEEDS

ALLISON BRENNAN

Mia Crawford's relaxing vacation at a private island resort takes a dangerous turn when she finds cryptic notes hidden in a discarded book. As she investigates a guest's disappearance, she uncovers secrets, suspects, & a mystery that puts her own life at risk.



THE SHIPPERS

KATHERINE CENTER

When a woman unexpectedly finds herself at the center of a whirlwind adventure, she must balance career challenges, personal setbacks, & a surprising romantic connection. Katherine Center blends humor, optimism, & emotional depth in this uplifting contemporary romance.



OUR PERFECT STORM

CARLEY FORTUNE

When Frankie is left at the altar, her lifelong best friend George convinces her to take the honeymoon trip anyway. Amid the wild beauty of Tofino, old wounds, buried feelings, & years of friendship begin to transform into something deeper.



FEVER DREAM

ELSIE SILVER

The first novel in Silver's new Emerald Lake series follows a rugged bull rider & a television location consultant thrown together in the chaotic world of reality TV. Their attraction grows amid professional tensions, personal baggage, & a romance neither expected.



VILLA COCO

ANDREW SEAN GREER

After college, an aspiring archivist travels to the Tuscan countryside to work for Coco, a flamboyant 92-year-old baronessa whose crumbling villa is filled with art, antiques, & eccentric guests. As he becomes entangled in Coco's chaotic world—& her quest to reunite with the lost love of her life—he discovers unexpected romance, friendship, & lessons about what it means to truly live.



DOLLY ALL THE TIME

ANNABEL MONAGHAN

Single mother Dolly Brick returns to her Rhode Island hometown to help save her family's home & business. When a wealthy local heir recovering from a public breakup proposes a fake relationship, what begins as a mutually beneficial arrangement soon develops into something far more real.

 ALSO AVAILABLE ON LIBBY



OIL HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2026 TOUCH-A-TRUCK



THUR. JULY 23RD | 11-2PM

Touch-A-Truck returns to the Central Avenue Plaza this summer in Oil City! On Thursday, July 23rd, from 11am – 2pm, the Central Avenue Plaza will be closed to traffic and filled with all kinds of trucks, cars, & heavy equipment! Following a special Storytime inside the library at 10:00 am, kids can explore the trucks right outside & even meet some of the people who operate them. This event is sure to be a ton of fun for kids of all ages & is free to the public. It's a great way to kick off the Oil Heritage Festival in Downtown Oil City!



Friends of the Oil City Library
BOOK SALE

JULY 23 - 25

THU. JULY 23 9AM - 7PM
FRI. JULY 24 9AM - 5PM
SAT. JULY 25 9AM - 3PM

LIBRARY HALL MATINEE SHOWING THIS MONTH



**NATIONAL
TREASURE
(2004) PG**

FRI. JULY 10TH
2:00 PM



**THE SUPER MARIO
BROS. MOVIE
(2023) PG**

THU. JULY 23RD
7:00 PM

Join us at Oil City Library's **Library Hall** for movie showings every other week!

**ADMISSION ALWAYS FREE
ALL AGES WELCOME
FREE POPCORN!**



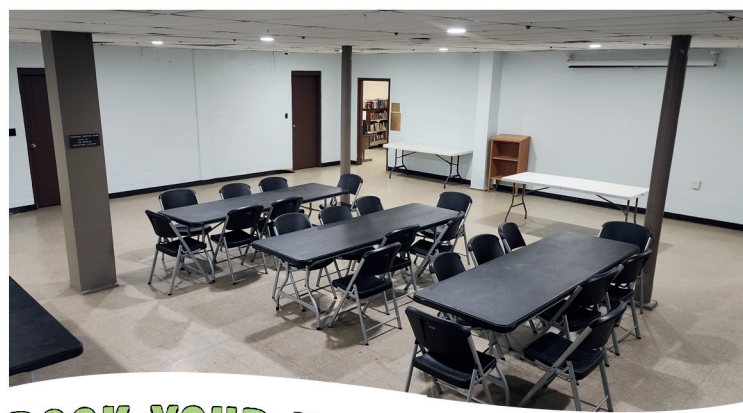
OIL CITY'S MEETING ROOM GETS A REFRESH

Thanks to funding from Friends of the Oil City Library, we were recently able to give the Oil City Library's downstairs Meeting Room a nice refresh! New drywall was installed & painted, as well as updated lighting fixtures.

The Meeting Room features folding tables & chairs, a kitchenette (microwave, stove, oven, sink & fridge/freezer), a single-occupancy restroom & a wall-mounted projector screen. Speakers, DVD player, & projector are available for use upon request. The Meeting Room is ADA accessible (featuring elevator access) & has a max capacity of 55 people. The room also features a private Front Street door for entrance & exit. This space is popular for birthday parties, baby showers, bridal showers & more!

COST TO BOOK: \$50.00 for up to 2 hours OR \$75.00 for greater than 2 hours. Registered non-profits are eligible for 2 hours free of cost.

SATURDAY BOOKINGS: Cost to book is \$75.00 for the entire day. *If set-up time during the afternoon on Friday is needed, the booking will cost \$100.00.



BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT TODAY!



LIBRARY HALL PRESENTS

SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE MISSING ARCHIVES

SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2026 | OIL CITY'S LIBRARY HALL

ORLA's Annual Literary-Themed Gala

Sponsorship Packages

Choose Your Level & Support Local Library Programming

The Sherlock - \$2,500

- Logo on event poster
- Individual social media recognition
- Recognized in all event marketing
- Signage and recognition at event
- Listed on event program
- Eight event tickets

The Watson - \$1,000

- Social media recognition
- Signage and recognition at event
- Listed on event program
- Six event tickets

The Baker Street Irregulars - \$500

- Social media recognition
- Signage at event
- Listed on event program
- Four event tickets

The Moriarty - \$250

- Social media recognition
- Listed on event program
- Two event tickets



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2026 ANNUAL
OIL REGION LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

LIBRARY LOTT

2026 tickets are
available NOW!

EACH TICKET
\$20
ONLY 1000 SOLD

JUNE WINNERS!



NO WINNER

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

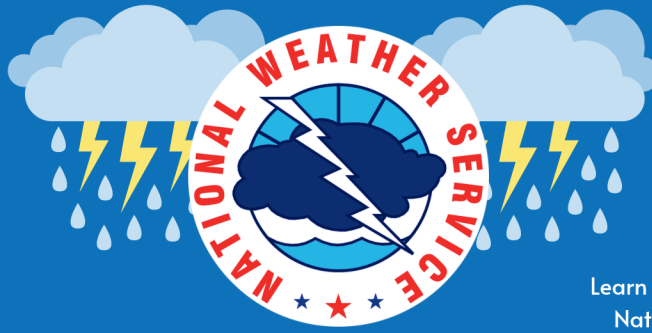


KATHY L.
OIL CITY, PA



CHERYL B.
OIL CITY, PA

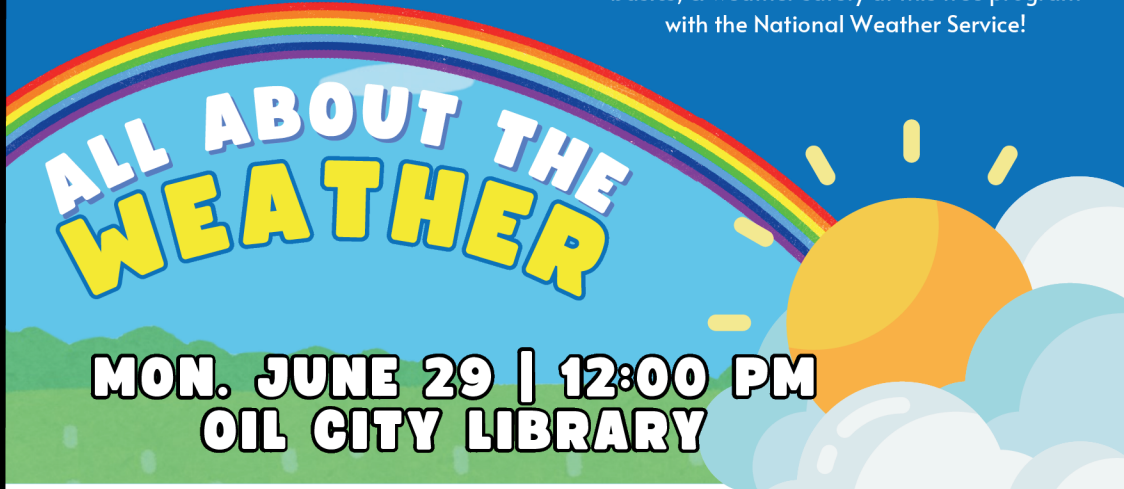
A total of 36 winners will be determined by the **Pennsylvania Daily Pick 3** evening drawing at 7:00PM on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd days of each month in 2026.



FREE FOR ALL AGES

**NO REGISTRATION
REQUIRED**

Learn about the meteorology career field, the National Weather Service, some weather basics, & weather safety at this free program with the National Weather Service!



MON. JUNE 29 | 12:00 PM
OIL CITY LIBRARY



SUMMER RAFFLES

Support Friends of the Library programs & projects by purchasing raffle tickets for their 2026 Summer Raffles!



Franklin Public Library Lottery Wreath Raffle - Tickets cost \$5 each or 5 for \$20 & are available at the Franklin Public Library's front desk. Winner will be drawn on July 6th, 2026.



Oil City Library 50/50 Raffle - Tickets cost \$1 each or 6 for \$5 & are available at the Oil City Library's front desk. Winner will be drawn on July 25th, 2026.



Oil City Library Summer Fun Basket Raffle - Tickets cost \$1 each or 6 for \$5 & are available at the Oil City Library's front desk. Winner will be drawn on July 25th, 2026.



Libby.
The library reading app



TIP OF THE MONTH

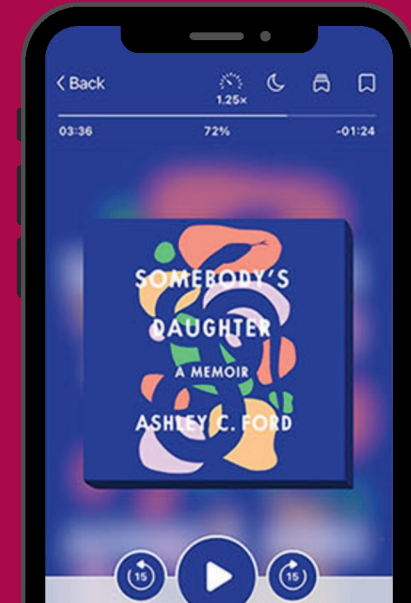
Bookmarks, Notes & Highlights in Audiobooks

To add a bookmark: Tap at the top of the audiobook player.

To add a highlight: Play the audiobook, then tap & hold to highlight a passage.

To add a note to a bookmark or highlight: Tap , select a bookmark or highlight, & tap . Then, tap **Make a Note** & add your note.

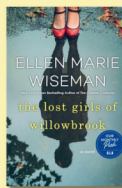
Bookmarks, notes, & highlights are saved in the audiobook under (& reappear there if you borrow the book again).



Next Month's **BOOK CLUB** Selections

AUGUST 2026

Oil City Library Book Club
Oil City Library
Meets First Thursday of the Month at 10:30 AM



The Lost Girls of Willowbrook
Ellen Marie Wiseman



The Bookmarkers Book Club
Franklin Public Library
Meets Second Tuesday of the Month at 12:00 PM



James
Percival Everett



Thursday Evening Book Club
Franklin Public Library
Meets Third Thursday of the Month at 5:00 PM



Eddie Winston is Looking For Love
Marianne Cronin



CALL TO AUTHORS

We're excited to announce that the 5th Annual Oil Region Festival of the Book will be held **Saturday, August 29th** in the Central Avenue Plaza! The Oil Region Festival of the Book provides an opportunity for community outreach to local & regional published authors.

Participating authors will be provided space at the festival to engage with our community & to share and sell their works. Food vendors, guest speakers, & children's activities will also be present at the Oil Region Festival of the Book alongside local authors.

Interested in being a featured author?
Get started at

OILREGIONLIBRARIES.ORG/FOTB

FEATURED RESOURCES

libby
The library reading app.

Popular Right Now

The Hottest Books on Libby Currently



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

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!

BBC
Historical Dramas

Watch BBC's Most Popular Series on **kanopy**

FIND US ONLINE

oilregionlibraries.org



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