



OFF THE SHELF

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE
VALLEY BLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY

JUNE 2026 | ISSUE 06



Donate

Annual Used Book Sale: July 13, 8 am–4 pm.
Bring gently used books to the main desk
to donate by July 3rd.



Children's Library

Our Children's Library is excited to announce that
they loaned out 767 books in the month of April!



Audio Library Breaking News

Introducing Hoopla Digital library!! See page 5 for
details. Books, Music, Movies & More !!

Get in Touch!

1234 South Center Street
Valley Bluff, MN 62709

PHONE

(555)323-2898

WEBSITE

www.ValleyBluffBooks.com

EMAIL

Library@valleybluff.com

HOURS

9:00am–4:00pm

Content Highlights

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- 14-15 | Adult Classes



From the Director

Our Staff



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EVERYONE IS A PART OF OUR STORY.

Welcome to the June issue of our Off the Shelf newsletter. This month is full of programs, activities, and new book releases to explore. Our team has been working hard to create offerings that bring people together and spark curiosity in every age group. We hope you enjoy discovering what's new and finding something that inspires you.

We are excited to step into a modern chapter for our library. Our new reading room, expanded activity spaces, and updated resources now give us room to welcome infants, children, teens, adults, and seniors with comfort and care. We are grateful for this beautiful facility, which allows us to host classes, crafts, community gatherings, and one of the area's largest collections of books. Thank you for being part of our growing story.



Jamie Summers, Executive Director

555-323-2898 x098 | jsummers@valleybluff.com

STAFF PICKS FOR YOU SUMMER TBR

Our staff has gathered a handful of stories that feel just right for summer. Whether you want something fun, thoughtful, or adventurous, these picks offer a little bit of everything. Let them inspire your next great read.



Angela Toni Steve Eden Caden

Find every staff pick in hardback or as an audiobook—your choice.



“Reading gives us someplace to go when we have to stay where we are.”
— Mason Cooley

Thousands of ebooks, audiobooks, magazines & more, waiting for you in the Libby app.

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The library reading app

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online: cottagelitchfield.com

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LENNOX



HI-TOP BOWLING
225 S. 6th Street

New Fun In The Bluff

New and returning hotspots for our community.

Valley Bluff is buzzing with fresh energy as several new and returning businesses open their doors to local families. The brand-new **Clay & Color Ceramics Studio** is already becoming a favorite spot for kids, teens, and adults to paint, create, and explore their artistic side together. Meanwhile, the long-awaited re-opening of **Hi-Top Bowling** means family nights, league fun, and classic date nights are officially back—complete with the nostalgic glow and friendly competition everyone remembers. And adding a modern twist to the Bluff's entertainment scene, the exciting new **Selfie Studio on the Bluff** invites visitors to bring a camera or phone and enjoy creative backdrops, fun props, and endless photo-worthy moments. It's an exciting time for Valley Bluff, with more ways than ever for families to connect, play, and make memories right here at home.

Announcement!

Visit Valley Bluff Community Library for coupons for these new businesses (and others) that are bringing new ways to make memories!



CLAY & COLOR CERAMICS
101 STATE STREET



Selfie Studio
4225 Bluff Hill Drive



VALLEY BLUFF BOOSTER CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

JULY 11 | 10:00AM SPRING CREEK GOLF CLUB

The Valley Bluff Booster Club invites you to our annual golf tournament, an important fundraiser that helps ensure students across all sports have access to the gear and support they need. Your participation helps cover essentials like uniforms, tournament entry costs, replacement equipment, travel needs, and small extras that help our teams feel encouraged and supported. Beyond the tournament itself, the day offers a chance to meet fellow supporters, celebrate our athletes, and enjoy a relaxed community gathering. Tee-off is Saturday, July 11 at 10 am, with lunch and a friendly auction afterward featuring a mix of fun, useful, and one-of-a-kind items. Visit www.BluffBoosters.com for schedules, sign-ups, and full event details..

GO TO WWW.VALLEYBLUFFBOOSTERS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION



BLUFF ANIMAL RESCUE

MON - FRI 9 AM - 5 PM

The Valley Bluff Animal Shelter is a friendly place where pets are cared for with patience and kindness while they wait for a new home. Volunteers can take part in daily routines like walking dogs, brushing cats, or simply sitting with animals who need a little extra comfort. Visitors are always welcome to drop by and spend time learning about each pet's personality and story.

For those ready to help even more, fostering gives animals a peaceful space to grow, and adopting gives them a forever home. The shelter also accepts donations of food, soft bedding, cleaning supplies, and toys to keep the animals healthy and happy. Every person who supports the shelter in any way helps create a hopeful future for pets throughout Valley Bluff.

GLOW BINGO NIGHT

JULY 18@ 7:00 PM - COMMUNITY HALL

Get a team and come for glow in the dark fun!! \$20 a person and all fees go to the Bluff Rescue! If you have never played Glow Bingo you are in for a treat!! Bring your own food and drinks and be ready to laugh and have a great time.

GO TO WWW.VBSHELTER.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION



TODAY'S LIBRARY

So Much More Than Books

At Valley Bluff Public Library, the joy of reading is only the beginning. We have evolved into a hub for technology, creativity, and community connection. Whether you're here for resources, learning, or simply a welcoming space, the library offers something for everyone.

Technology for All

Modern life requires digital access—so the library helps bridge that gap.

Available at Valley Bluff Public Library:

- Public computers & high-speed Wi-Fi
- Printing, scanning, and faxing
- One-on-one tech help
- Digital literacy workshops

Makerspace Magic

Step inside our innovative Valley Bluff Makerspace, where creativity takes center stage.

Explore and create with:

- 3D printers
- Recording equipment
- STEM kits for kids
- Crafting tools and materials

It's where ideas come to life—one project at a time.

Lifelong Learning Happens Here

The library supports learners of every age and every stage.

Programs & resources include:

- Resume and job search workshops
- After-school homework help
- Storytime programs
- Financial literacy sessions
- Language learning tools

Education doesn't stop at graduation—and neither does the library's support.

A Community Gathering Place

Valley Bluff Public Library is truly the “living room” of our town.

Weekly activities bring neighbors together:

- Book clubs for all ages
- Author visits
- Teen events
- Craft nights
- Community discussions

There's always something happening—and always a place for you.

Your Library On-the-Go

With a Valley Bluff library card, patrons can access:

- E-books & audiobooks
- Streaming movies
- Digital magazines & newspapers
- Online research tools

Accessible anytime, from anywhere.

Supporting Family & Community Wellbeing

The library is committed to nurturing a healthy, thriving community.

Recent offerings include:

- Parenting resources
- Quiet reading & relaxation spaces
- Wellness workshops
- After-school activities

It's more than a library—it's a support system.

While books stay at its heart, Valley Bluff Public Library is growing into a place for innovation, connection, and lifelong learning for everyone.



HOOPLA IS HERE!

YOUR LIBRARY CARD JUST GOT BETTER!

Valley Bluff Public Library is excited to introduce Hoopla, a new digital service that will give all our library card holders instant access to eBooks, audiobooks, movies, TV shows, music, and more – all available 24/7 on demand!

With Hoopla, every title is available on demand – no waiting lists, no holds, and no late fees!

All city library holders will receive 3 free Hoopla rentals per month!

How It Works

Getting Started is quick and simple:

- Download the **Hoopla Digital app** on your smartphone, tablet, or smart TV, or visit **hoopla.digital.com**
- Create your free Hoopla account using your email address.

- Select Valley Bluff Public Library as your home library.
- Sign in using your library card number and PIN
- Browse thousands of titles and start borrowing instantly!
- Explore comics and graphic novels
- Access carefully selected collections for kids through *Hoopla Kids Mode*.

Why You'll Love Hoopla

Hoopla has something for every age and interest you can:

- Stream movies and TV shows
- Download ebooks and audiobooks to enjoy online or offline.
- Listen to full music catalogs without any ads.

Need Help?

Library staff are happy to assist with setup or answer any questions. We are here to make sure you get the most of this new service.

We hope you enjoy everything Hoopla has to offer – and we are excited to bring this to the Valley Bluff Community!





Live Music Event with David Flynn

July 8 | 7:00pm - 8 PM In Our New Reading Room

Join us for a delightful evening of live music featuring local artist David Flynn, who's making waves in the Nashville music scene. This talented storyteller is returning home for a series of special local events, offering a unique blend of original songs, popular covers, and amusing local anecdotes. With his captivating performances, David will surely keep you entertained throughout the night.

Bring your favorite book, gather a few friends, and come prepared with your preferred snacks and drinks for a relaxing and enjoyable night under the stars. This event promises to be a memorable experience, combining the charm of live music with the comfort of a cozy gathering. Don't miss the chance to support a local talent on his musical journey!

Check out David's music on his YouTube channel: DavidFlynnMusic or his website at www.DavidFlynnMusic.com.

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MOVIES UNDER THE STARS EVERY SATURDAY

The summer tradition of movies under the stars returns to the library courtyard. The space opens at 6:30 PM, with movies starting at dusk. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets, and snacks, while fresh popcorn will be available all night. For the complete movie schedule, visit the announcements board, the library's website, or Facebook page.



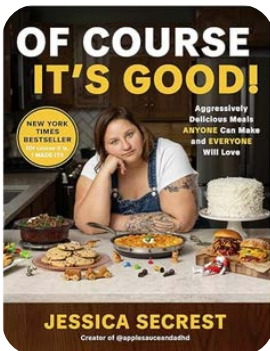
MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT

JULY 22, 7:00. TICKETS REQUIRED

\$50 PER PERSON INCLUDES DINNER

Enjoy a fun night of mystery as you explore clues, share theories, and crack the case. Every guest plays a part, and the final reveal is full of surprises. A dinner banquet will be served courtesy of Culinary Caravan.

Friends of the Library Annual Fundraiser



Meet the Author - TikTok Sensation & NY Times Bestseller Jessica Seacrest!

AUGUST 4 | 5:00PM - 7:00PM

Join us for a lively Q&A with Jessica Seacrest as she talks cooking, humor, and everyday meals. Her cookbook will be available to buy, with a chance to get your copy signed.

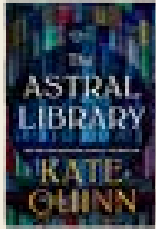
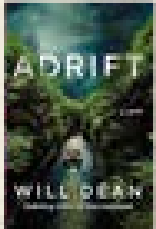
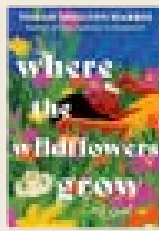
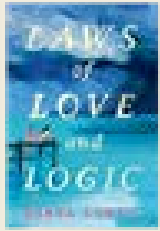
Enjoy her no-frills, aggressive approach, filled with affordable dishes made with simple ingredients. Each page reflects her bold voice, proving that great food doesn't always require a cheerful mood.

THESE EVENTS ARE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE VALLEY BLUFF FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Valley Bluff Friends of the Library began in 2018 and is a 501c3 non-profit bringing fun and support to the library all year long. They support library programs, make special events happen, and welcome volunteers and offer service opportunities for youth and adults.

In addition to the events above, other things The Friends do to make the library services even better include: Sponsoring Summer Reading Programs, Providing equipment for the library, organizing meet the author events, providing reading tote bags for all new library card holders and many more other activities that brighten the library for everyone.

NEW RELEASES & SUMMER BOOK CLUB READS!



OUR SUMMER CLUB MEETS MONDAYS 6:30 AT BISTRO BLISS

Every Monday at 6:30, the Valley Bluff Library Book Club gathers in the private party room at Bistro Bliss for a cozy evening of reading and connection. Enjoy a relaxed space where you can have a drink, eat if you want, and chat about these exciting new Summer releases.

Come as often as you like and unwind with friends.

What I love most about reading—it gives you the ability to reach higher ground. A world of possibilities awaits you. Keep turning the page.

OPRAH



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- ✓ Enhanced Balance
- ✓ Increased Strength
- ✓ Social Engagement

Show Us Your Library Card For Discounted Classes!

MOVE WITH US FITNESS CENTER
18 VALLEY BLUFF PLAZA

BABY, TODDLER & PRE-SCHOOL CLASSES

11

THESE CLASSES RUN ALL YEAR!

BABY & ME

INFANT - 8 MONTHS

Wednesday | 10:00am-11:00am

Learn a variety of ways to play with your bundle of joy. Babies are exposed to gentle sensory play, songs, and introduction to social play. You will be led through activities that stimulate your baby's development. Enjoy uninterrupted time with baby.



CRAWLERS: LET'S EXPLORE 6 MONTHS - 13 MONTHS

Thursday | 10:00am-11:00am

These babies are on the move! Crawling, rolling, sitting and ready to explore! Dance with your baby, sing them songs, and explore new challenges while being led through gentle activities with a variety. Learn ways to play with your little ones and chat with other adults



WALK & PLAY

10 MONTHS - 18 MONTHS

Tuesday | 10:00am -11:00am

Can you believe your little one is walking? Now is the time to strengthen those legs and steady those steps while you get uninterrupted time to enjoy watching your little one walk, climb and play and start to explore social skill building with other little ones. Have fun with dancing and singing during music time.



TODDLER ART

2 Year - 4 Years

Monday | 11:00am - 12:00

A fun, safe space for toddlers to be creative and explore ways to express themselves. Creating collages, fingerpainting, creating with play dough, reading stories and making crafts to go along with story time.



DAD'S NIGHT FOR FUN

Ages 1 and up

1st Thursday Monthly 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm

Kids can have a special night out with Dad, Grandpa, their favorite Uncle or any special guy in their life! They will listen to stories, create a craft, and enjoy making ice cream sundaes together.

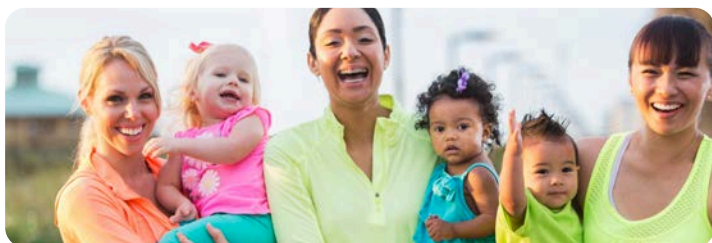


PRE-K STORIES & SONGS

AGES 2 Years - 5 Years

Tuesday | 1:00pm-2:00pm

Every story hour will have a fun theme, with songs, dances and craft projects that go along with the story of the day. We will have guest readers to keep the stories exciting and so much fun while we create, sing and dance together.



**TO REGISTER FOR
ALL CLASSES
OR FOR MORE
INFORMATION:**



SCAN ME

Tumbling Fun

**EVERY THURSDAY 6:00PM | COST: \$55.00 FOR SUMMER
Summer Session runs June 1 through August 12.**

A one-hour beginner class that helps kids grow stronger, improve balance, and practice easy tumbling in a fun space. Comfortable clothing or gymnastics clothing works best to help them move freely and stay active. Ongoing class. Fall session will start in September.



Summers Sundays in the Park

02:00PM - 04:00 | COST: FREE

BY THE COMMUNITY SHELTER AT BLUFF RIDGE PARK

Come spend your Summer Sundays in the park with us! Stay for the full two hours or pop in for a quick visit. All ages are welcome. Enjoy snacks, crafts, group games, parachute fun, a bubble bonanza, and a big water-gun spectacular during our final Sunday of the season.

Junior Reading Club

TUESDAYS 10:30 AM | COST: FREE

A weekly gathering where young readers explore a new book through stories, chats, and hands-on fun. Each session brings themed crafts, creative art projects, and a snack that matches the book of the week. Kids build social skills, strengthen thinking skills, and enjoy a warm and playful space to learn together.

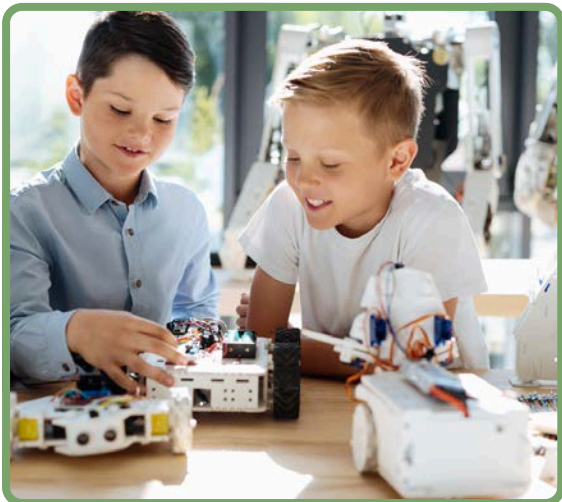


Robotics Club

TUESDAYS - JUNE 16 - JULY 21

5:30PM | COST: \$35.00 6 WEEKS

A hands-on class where kids build simple robots using legos and other playful materials. They explore how things move, create their own designs, and enjoy friendly robot races. You will learn elements of design by designing a new robotic function for your robot every week. At the class you will get to take home your working robot.



One Book. Two Books... A Thousand Stories!

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program turns everyday reading into a fun and meaningful goal for families.

Reading 1,000 books before kindergarten may sound big, but it's easy when you break it down—and yes, favorite books can be read again and again (kids love that part!). Each story helps build early literacy skills, sparks imagination, and creates special moments together. Grab a book, snuggle up, and start reading. One story at a time adds up to a lifelong love of learning! **Recognition for each 100 books read!**



**HOW TO READ
1000 BOOKS
BEFORE KINDERGARTEN**

1 Book per day for 3 years = 1095 Books
10 Books per week for 2 years = 1040 Books
3 Books per day for 1 year = 1095 Books

**1000
BOOKS
BEFORE KINDERGARTEN**

Visit the Children's
Desk to Register.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWST MEMBERS OF THE 1,000 BOOK CLUB!

JORDAN

MARLEY

EVAN

Cookie Baking

**JUNE 30 OR JULY 16 | 07:00PM – 09:00PM BLUFF COMMUNITY CENTER
FEE: \$10**

This not your typical chocolate chip cookie class.... learn baking secrets from Pastry Chef Claire Bonitz from Incredibly Delicious. She will share recipes and baking secrets while helping you prepare bakery style gourmet cookies including trash can cookies, macarons, and gourmet chocolate chip cookies.



Sour Dough Secrets

**JUNE 18 OR JULY 12 | 06:30PM – 08:30PM. BLUFF COMMUNITY CENTER
FEE: \$10)**

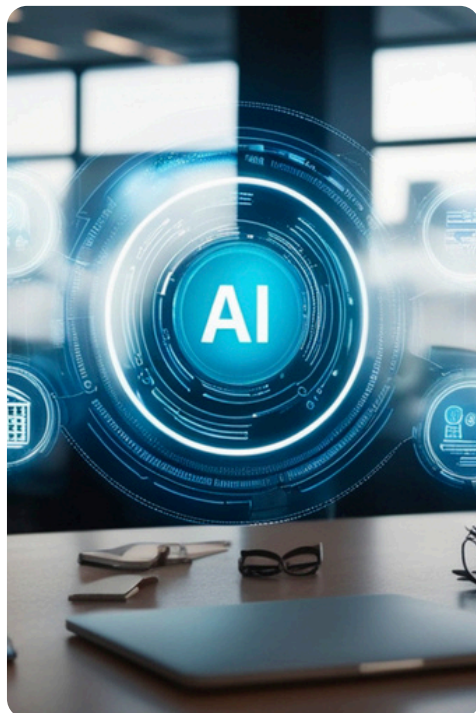
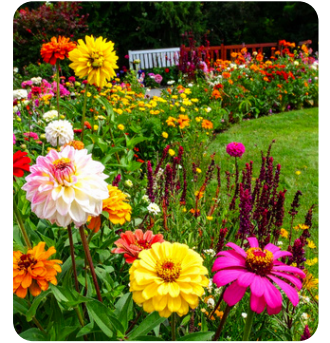
Curious about sourdough? This beginner-friendly class takes the mystery out of baking with a sourdough starter. You'll learn the basics—from caring for your starter to understanding fermentation and baking tips for great results. Whether you're brand new or looking to improve your loaf, you'll leave with helpful knowledge, confidence, and a few tasty secrets to try at home.



Lunch & Learn: All About Flower Gardens

**JUNE 16 | 10:00AM – 11:30PM BLUFF OLDER ADULT ACTIVITY CENTER
FREE!**

Learn how fun and relaxing it can be to grow and enjoy a beautiful flower garden for the rest of Summer and into the Fall! Informative workshop with hand outs and gardening cheat sheets for you to take home! **Join us for Burgers, Hot Dogs, Chips and Salad.** Presented by The Valley Bluff Garden Club!



Let's Learn AI for Business

**4 WEEKS: JUNE 11, 18, 25 & JULY 1: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
HELD AT THE TECHNOLOGY CENTER. FEE: \$125**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has transitioned from a futuristic concept to a present reality that is here to stay. Generative AI is revolutionizing the way businesses of all sizes function. Small businesses can leverage AI to:

- Accelerate research
- Increase efficiency
- Brainstorm innovative ideas
- Organize spreadsheets
- And much more!

With generative AI, writing becomes both professional and effortless. You can swiftly craft first drafts, enhance your writing, and retain essential business details to reflect your company's messaging and tone.

Reclaim your time and focus on other important tasks by fully utilizing your AI assistant's capabilities.



Beginner Yoga

EVERY MONDAY | 07:00 PM – 08:00PM. LIBRARY ANNEX

New to yoga or coming back after a break? This class is for you! Beginner Yoga moves at a relaxed pace and focuses on gentle stretches, simple poses, and easy-to-follow breathing. No flexibility or experience needed—just come as you are. You'll leave feeling stronger, more relaxed, and a little more at home in your body.



Advanced Yoga

EVERY TUESDAY | 07:00AM – 08:00PM. LIBRARY ANNEX

Designed for experienced practitioners, Advanced Yoga offers a stronger, more dynamic practice that builds strength, flexibility, and balance. Expect more challenging poses, flowing sequences, and focused breathwork, with options to refine technique and deepen your practice. Come ready to move, explore, and



Gentle Exercise

EVERY TUESDAY | 04:30 PM– 05:15 PM. LIBRARY ANNEX

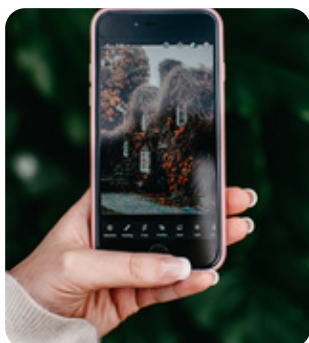
Stay active in a safe, supportive way with this low-impact fitness class. Exercises focus on strength training, balance, light aerobics, and flexibility— all performed at your own fitness level. Movements can be done standing or seated in a chair. Wear comfortable clothes you can move in, bring water, and feel free to bring free weights if you have them (optional).



Learn Pottery at Mudslide Pottery

JUNE 28 OR JULY 30 | 05:00PM – 06:00PM. FEE: \$35

Includes two hours of instruction. You will be guided through the process of throwing a cylinder on the wheel. You will receive three one-pound balls of clay to use and can keep up to three pots. Your pottery will be glazed and ready for pick-up around three weeks later. **Age Requirement: Young adults & Adults 16 years and older.**



iPhone Basics

JUNE 27 | 10:00AM – 11:30 AM. HELD IN THE LEARNING CENTER

Do you want to understand the power of your iPhone? If so, this is for you. From setting up your home screen to secret button 'hacks', we will teach you to use the power of your phone! We will also go over how to keep your information secure, set up a digital wallet, check your email on your phone, find the perfect Apps and more!



Sign Up for Our Digital Newsletter!

Get our newsletter delivered to your inbox! To sign up go to: www.bluffbooks.com

Come For The Books, Stay For the Fun!



Valley Bluff library has something for everyone – and we mean *everyone*! Yes, you can still find a cozy corner to curl up with a great book but step inside and you'll discover so much more than shelves and silence. We have evolved into a vibrant community hub where curiosity comes to life from hands-on workshops and tech help, to author talks, crafting classes, book clubs, and learning programs. There's always something new to explore whether you want to master a new skill, research family history learn a language or simply try something new your library is ready to help you grow. ***It's not just about learning it's about connecting!***