



# Library IN THE LOOP

## FINE FREE x FARE FREE

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

**Show your Public Library Card\*\*  
September 1-30 to Ride CityLink for FREE**



### Fine Free x Fare Free September!

**Ride CityLink buses for free all month with your library card!**

In a first-ever "Fine Free + Fare Free" initiative, the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD) will offer free CityLink fixed bus rides throughout September for Peoria, Pekin, Peoria Heights and Fondulac library patrons in honor of National Library Card Sign-up Month.

Riders will need to show a library card from one of these four libraries to ride for free on any of CityLink's fixed routes across Peoria, Peoria Heights, East Peoria and Pekin between Sept. 1-30.

In addition to promoting National Library Card Sign-Up Month, September is also the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Peoria and Fondulac libraries going fine free, thus the "Fine Free + Fare Free" promotion. Pekin Library, which already offered fine-free library cards for children, will extend this advantage to all Pekin Library card holders in September. Peoria Heights has been fine free since 2016.

"We can't thank CityLink enough for offering this generous incentive to everyone who holds a library card from one of these libraries," said Randall Yelverton, Executive Director of Peoria Public Library. "When we went fine free in September 2020, it was the middle of COVID. During such a difficult time, we wanted to do all we could to remove any barriers to accessing our collection. Public transportation is also all about accessibility by providing low-cost, reliable transportation for all. Working together to highlight our strengths and what we bring to our community makes sense."

**Library Card Sign-Up Month Contests and Events**

### Show Us Your Library Card Contest!

Throughout September, show us your library card and enter to win a new Kindle, courtesy of Friends of Peoria Public Library.

We will have two winners – one for new library card holders and one for existing card holders. Visit us every day? Awesome! You can enter to win every day!

Teachers, show us your teacher card and you can enter to win a \$100 gift card for classroom supplies. Of course, if you also have a Peoria Public Library card, you can enter to win a Kindle too.

**\*\* Contest open only to Peoria Public Library card holders of all ages.**

### Library Card Sign-Up Month Events

**Friday, Sept. 2 – 4 p.m., North Branch, 3001 W. Grand Pkwy.**

Kick off National Library Card Sign-Up month with the perfect movie, *The Pagemaster* (1994; Rated G) movie starring Macaulay Culkin as a timid boy who overcomes his fears as he journeys through a magical library. Free and for all ages.

**Saturday, Sept. 10 – 11 a.m., Lakeview Branch, 1137 W. Lake Ave.**

**Wednesday, Sept. 21 – 6:30 p.m., Lakeview Branch, 1137 W. Lake Ave.**

Join us to learn about our digital collection, including hidden gems, as well as all the things you can do with your library card. We're more than just books.

### Library Card Sign-Up Month Bingo

Pick up a Bingo card at any Peoria Public Library location. Explore what all your library card can unlock by playing our Library Card Sign Up Month bingo game. All ages.

### Library Card Sign-Up Month Scavenger Hunt – North Branch

What's the biggest book in the library? What's the funniest book a librarian has read?

Come to North Branch's information desk to pick up a challenge card, and maybe you'll find out! Bring your finished card back to the desk for a prize. Do all six cards and get entered into a drawing for a book giveaway!



Free and open to all.

### Good Neighbor Day Block Party

Join us as we celebrate National Good Neighbor Day – the final event of Peoria Reads! 2022.

With help from the Center Bluff Neighborhood Association and the Peoria Park District and City of Peoria mini neighborhood grant program, we are able to bring live music, games, crafts, food and fun to the heart of the city.

Come be neighborly. Make new friends, but keep the old.

**Wednesday, Sept. 28 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at McClure Branch and adjacent Columbia Park, 300 block of McClure Avenue.**

Featuring:

- Live music from Dexter O'Neal and the Funk Yard
- Fun on the Run inflatables
- Food trucks
- Games and crafts
- Even come preserve your family's history with StoryCorps Connect



## Dungeons & Dragons at the Library

If you've ever thought you'd like to try this fantasy roleplaying game, this is the library program for you.

We have experts from local game store Just for Fun helping us.

Bring your friends -- and snacks too if you'd like.

Free. Game materials provided. Ages 13+

Starts Saturday, Sept. 10 at 2:30 p.m., Main Library, 107 NE Monroe.

## Grant-funded STEAM Programming Coming to Lincoln Branch

Whether it's stepping into the shoes of an astronaut or the smock of a famous painter, Cynthia Smith is committed to inspiring students through innovative STEAM programming.

Smith, manager of Peoria Public Library's Lincoln Branch, has secured two grants to expand STEAM programming for grades 5-8. The \$12,500 Project Next Generation (PNG) grant will pay for three virtual reality headsets as part of Lincoln Branch's science, technology, art, and math (STEAM) programming being rolled out in the fall.

The grant also covers two local mentors who will have a hand in designing and teaching the programming related to VR technology. While there will be an opportunity for games, Smith said the primary focus will be the exploration of space.

Lincoln Branch was one of just 30 Illinois public libraries to receive a 2023 Project Next Generation (PNG) grant.

Another \$1,800 grant from the Fine Arts Society of Peoria will spur creation of a new visual arts program in cooperation with the Peoria Guild of Black Artists.

Lincoln Branch Manager Cynthia Smith said the programming is primarily geared for children in grades 5-8. For more information, call (309) 497-2600.

Check out this great article by WCBU- Public Radio detailing Lincoln Branch's plans [here](#)



**CENSORSHIP DIVIDES US**

**BANNED BOOKS WEEK**

September 18 - 24, 2022  
[bannedbooksweek.org](http://bannedbooksweek.org)



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## Banned Books Week: Sept. 18-24

Banned Books Week started 40 years ago this year in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries.

Even after four decades of shining the light on the value of free and open access to information, efforts across the country to censor books is on the rise.

Between 2020 and 2021, the number of challenges nationwide to library materials has more than tripled, according to the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

**Banned Books Week 2022 will be held September 18 – 24.**

**The theme of this year's event is "Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us."**

The ALA [Office for Intellectual Freedom](#) (OIF) compiles [lists of challenged books](#) as reported in the media and submitted by librarians and teachers across the country. The Top 10 Challenged Books of 2021 are:

**1. *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe**

Reasons: Banned, challenged, and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content and because it was considered to have sexually explicit images

**2. *Lawn Boy* by Jonathan Evison**

Reasons: Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and because it was considered to be sexually explicit

**3. *All Boys Aren't Blue* by George M. Johnson**

Reasons: Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and profanity and because it was considered to be sexually explicit

**4. *Out of Darkness* by Ashley Hope Perez**

Reasons: Banned, challenged, and restricted for depictions of abuse and because it was considered to be sexually explicit

**5. *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas**

Reasons: Banned and challenged for profanity and violence and because it was thought to promote an anti-police message and indoctrination of a social agenda

**6. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie**

Reasons: Banned and challenged for profanity, sexual references, and use of a derogatory term

**7. *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* by Jesse Andrews**

Reasons: Banned and challenged because it was considered sexually explicit and degrading to women

**8. *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison**

Reasons: Banned and challenged because it depicts child sexual abuse and was considered sexually explicit

**9. *This Book is Gay* by Juno Dawson**

Reasons: Banned, challenged, relocated, and restricted for providing sex education and LGBTQIA+ content

**10. *Beyond Magenta* by Susan Kuklin**

Reasons: Banned and challenged for LGBTQIA+ content and because it was considered to be sexually explicit.

Look for ALA's Top Challenged Books of 2022 list in April 2023.

Look for Banned Books-themed programs at Peoria Public Library this year in our September event calendar and website at [www.peoriapubliclibrary.org](http://www.peoriapubliclibrary.org)



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