



JANUARY, 2026

The Library Lineup



LINCOLN CITY LIBRARIES | PROGRAM GUIDE

Victor E. Anderson Branch
3635 Touzalin Ave. | 402-441-8540

Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 10 AM-8 PM
Friday-Saturday: 10 AM-6 PM
Sunday: 12-8 PM

YOUTH

Construction Crew

Whether it's LEGOs, K'nex, Magna-Tiles or Keva Planks, we'll have free construction time for you and all of your building buddies.

01/04 SUN 1:00-3:00 ANDR

Early Readers Book Club

Join us for Early Readers Book Club for kids in grades Kindergarten - 2nd who are just beginning to read on their own. Once a week for six weeks, we'll introduce awesome books for emerging readers, read together as a group, and do an activity! Caregivers are encouraged to stay and participate with their child. Registration is required.

01/14 WED 6:00-7:00 ANDR
01/21 WED 6:00-7:00 ANDR
01/28 WED 6:00-7:00 ANDR

ADULTS

MahJong

Join our growing group of MahJong players for free-play. New players are always welcome, and the group is happy to teach beginners!

01/21 WED 2:00-4:00 ANDR
01/28 WED 2:00-4:00 ANDR

Storytime Schedule



Looking for a smaller crowd at Storytime? Join the crew at Bennett Martin Public Library. We've added Baby Storytimes on Thursdays and of course, still have our all-ages Storytimes on Fridays!



NEW



CUSTOM READING LISTS

Lincoln City Libraries staff will curate a list of reads just for you. Any age range, any genre—we've got you covered. Scan here to get started on your custom reading list journey.

Bennett Martin Public Library
136 S. 14th St. | 402-441-8530

Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10 AM-8 PM
Friday-Saturday: 10 AM-6 PM
Sunday: 12-6 PM

Downtown Parking is FREE:

- at meters on Sundays
- weekdays after 6 p.m.
- 1-hour free parking in Eagle Garage

FREE

YOUTH

Winter Break Escape Room: Snowed In at the Library (Grades 2-3)

The library doors have frozen shut - can you and your team solve the puzzles to escape in time? You'll have 30 minutes to work through frosty riddles and clues in this fun, beginner-friendly challenge. Parents may stay in the room, but cannot assist. Successful teams will win a small prize! Space is limited so please register online to reserve your spot!

01/04 SUN 2:00-2:30 BMPL

Winter Break Escape Room: The Great Blizzard Challenge (Grades 4-5)

The snowstorm is closing in! Teams will have 20 minutes to decode clues, unlock puzzles, and beat the clock to escape the library. Parents are welcome to observe, but the challenge is for kids only. Escape in time to claim your prize! Space is limited so please register online to reserve your spot!

01/04 SUN 3:00-3:30 BMPL

Family Movie Pajama Night: Abominable

Come in your coziest pajamas and settle in for a magical screening of Abominable! Bring your own blankets and stuffed animals, and enjoy free popcorn and hot cocoa while you get comfy for this winter family movie night.

01/14 WED 5:30-7:00 BMPL

TEENS

Gaming Café

Swing by the Bennett Martin Public Library CanTEEN for video games and snacks! We'll have some retro games and modern favorites. Bring a friend or challenge our teen librarian to Mario Kart (you'll win), Dr. Mario (you'll lose), or another favorite! For ages 11-18.

01/08 THU 3:00-5:00 BMPL
01/15 THU 3:00-5:00 BMPL
01/22 THU 3:00-5:00 BMPL
01/29 THU 3:00-5:00 BMPL

TEENS Continued

Troll For Initiative—Beginner/Intermediate D & D

We're going on a fantasy adventure! Where are we going? We don't know yet, but we'll have fun doing it. This group is meant for beginner and intermediate level D & D players. This group is limited to 10 active participants. Please contact Dungeon Master Scott C. at 402-441-8525 or 402-441-8530 to be added to a wait list for future openings.

01/12 MON 4:30-5:50 BMPL
01/26 MON 4:30-5:50 BMPL

Can I Crochet?

Can you crochet? Short answer - yes! Whether you are a beginner, an experienced fiber artist, or just want to learn, this is the place for you! Come learn the basics or work on your WIP in a relaxed, no-judgment atmosphere. Supplies provided or bring your own! For ages 11-18.

01/27 TUE 3:00-5:00 BMPL

ADULTS

Beginners American Sign Language (ASL)

Do you want to learn the third most commonly used language in the United States? Join library staff member, Shantell, on Thursday nights in January. Participants will learn sign formation and primary grammar as well as how to sign the alphabet, numbers, personal information, and basic conversational phrases! Registration is required.

01/08 THU 6:30-7:30 BMPL
01/15 THU 6:30-7:30 BMPL
01/22 THU 6:30-7:30 BMPL
01/29 THU 6:30-7:30 BMPL

Songwriting/Composing Club—A Polley Music Library Program

Are you a songwriter or composer interested in sharing your work? Need help with writers block or a particular part that doesn't feel quite right? Join the Songwriting/Composing Club at the Polley Music Library and meet other musicians in the area! Bring an instrument, your laptop, sheet music, lyrics, or just come to talk about what you're working on!

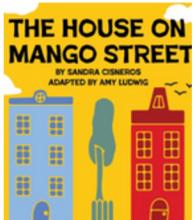
01/08 THU 6:00-7:00 BMPL

Adult Storytime

Join us for an evening of live readings (short stories, novel fragments, poetry, plays, song lyrics, essays and more), music samples from Nebraska performers or composers, adult coloring sheets, a reading list, and maybe even a craft! This month's theme: readers' choice!

01/15 THU 6:30-7:30 BMPL

ADULTS Continued



Writing Workshop: Finding Your Voice on Mango Street

Everyone has a story to tell! Join us for a relaxed, hands-on writing workshop inspired by The House on Mango Street. Local poet, Karla Hernandez Torrijos, will guide us in exploring themes of home, identity, and belonging as we write short, creative pieces from our own lives. No writing experience needed - just come ready to share, listen, and be inspired! This event is in partnership with Linked2Literacy and the Read, Connect, Celebrate: House on Mango Street Project, a year-long, citywide initiative to bring a classic book to life through the arts and community conversations.

01/18 SUN 1:00-3:00 BMPL

Stacks of Facts—Tuesday Trivia!

Join us for a high-energy trivia night filled with laughs, friendly competition, and surprising facts! It's the perfect way to test your knowledge with core categories you'll see every time as well as a fresh mix of rotating themes each month. Come on your own or bring friends. Teams will compete for prizes and bragging rights!

01/20 TUE 6:30-7:30 BMPL

B.Y.O.B(ook) Club

This is not your traditional book club - no assigned reading! Join us with a title or titles from your own reading life based on the monthly discussion prompt and add to your own "To Be Read" list with recommendations from the group. We also love to share our current reads when time allows. This month's prompt: a book with a periodic element in the title (ex. Gold, Silver, Salt (sodium chloride), Chlorine...).

01/21 WED 6:30-7:30 BMPL

Crafternoon - Snowscape Terrarium

Make your own beautiful snowscape while staying warm! Join us to build a snowscape in a round terrarium with trees, snow and twinkly lights. All supplies will be provided, but space is limited. Registration is required.

01/25 SUN 2:00-4:00 BMPL

Just Desserts Mystery Fiction Discussion Group

The Just Desserts Mystery Discussion Group will celebrate its 200th meeting with a special theme. All participants are encouraged to share "the book that made you become a mystery or thriller fan." After this, attendees will share a round robin of whatever else they've been reading recently (emphasizing mysteries).

01/29 THU 6:30-7:45 BMPL

Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 10 AM-8 PM
Friday-Saturday: 10 AM-6 PM
Sunday: 12-8 PM

ALL AGES

Family Fun Night: Snow

Drop by the Gere Branch Library for a variety of snow-themed crafts, games, and activities (including an indoor snowball fight) that are fun for the whole family.

01/13 TUE 5:30-7:00 GERE

Board Game Night

If you're a fan of board games and card games, then Gere Branch Library is the place to be! Join us for an all-ages night of fun with your friends and family. Come to play our games or bring your own to share!

01/20 TUE 6:00-7:30 GERE

YOUTH

What If Puppets: Ring's Singalong Road Trip

Did you know puppets can play an important role in early childhood learning? It's true! Puppetry can help strengthen vocabulary and communication as well as social and emotional skills. Most importantly: they're fun! Join travelin' Mister Mike and his singing dog Ringo (a puppet) on an interactive, musical road trip. Audiences are encouraged to sing, clap, and stomp along as the duo performs storytime classics like: "B-I-N-G-O," "Wheels on the Bus," and "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" They're joined by a...dancing chicken!

01/17 SAT 10:30-11:00 GERE

01/17 SAT 2:30-3:00 GERE

ADULTS

Gere BookTalks

Please join us at Gere Branch for a casual book discussion group. You don't need to read a specific book or have anything prepared. A library staff member will start off by talking about something they've been reading and then each group member can tell the group about something they are reading. Don't want to talk? That's fine - come and listen! This is a spectacular opportunity to get ideas for books you may not already know about and to spread the word about books you love.

01/05 MON 2:00-3:00 GERE

Short & Strange Short Fiction Reading Group

Do you love talking about what you've read, but don't have a lot of reading time? Are you interested in speculative fiction and other non-mimetic genres? Join us for lively discussion about intriguing (and less-time-intensive) reads. Register if you want to receive notification about this month's reading selection (not required).

01/05 MON 6:30-7:30 GERE

Bethany Branch Library
1810 N. Cotner Blvd. | 402-441-8550

Hours:
Monday-Saturday: 10 AM-6 PM
Sunday: Closed

ADULTS

Bethany BookTalks

Each weekly BookTalk session features a different presenter sharing their reading recommendations. Registration is not required and drop-in attendance is encouraged.

Wyatt kicks off 2026 with his "Year in Books!"

01/09 FRI 10:30-11:30 BETH

Making her BookTalk debut, Bethany's own Lucy will share what she's been reading lately.

01/16 FRI 10:30-11:30 BETH

Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors curator Deb will talk about the Heritage Room's mission and some of the contemporary Nebraska authors she enjoys.

01/23 FRI 10:30-11:30 BETH

"Once upon a time..." Nancy and Pam share their favorite children's books from 2025.

01/30 FRI 10:30-11:30 BETH

Eiseley Branch Library
1530 Superior St. | 402-441-4250

Monday-Thursday: 10 AM-8 PM

Friday-Saturday: 10 AM-6 PM

Sunday: 12-8 PM

ALL AGES

Kooser Kodiak Art Night

Did you know bears can do art? Join us in supporting the Kooser Kodiak 5th grade art students as we host an open house to showcase their work.

01/08 THU 5:00-7:00 EISE

Scrappy Pet Toys

Let's create some new toys for our pets using some old t-shirt scraps! All materials will be provided. We'll learn to make three different kinds of toys.

01/11 SUN 2:00-3:00 EISE

Coffee & Crosswords

Would you like to be the type of person that finishes the Sunday crossword puzzle but you don't know a four-letter word for Hawaiian Goose? Join us for Coffee & Crosswords! Attendees will enjoy coffee provided by Scooters as we work together to finish a Sunday crossword in under one hour. Can it be done? Not without your help!

01/25 SUN 12:30-2:00 EISE

ADULTS

Once Upon a Crime - Killer Women

Join us for all things criminal where we deep dive a true crime book. Bring your current crime obsessions to share and get sentenced to FUN!

01/14 WED 6:30-7:45 EISE

ADULTS Continued

Circle of Friends

Circle of Friends is an adaptive program for adults accompanied by a support person. Activities may include crafts, exercise and stories. All abilities and skill levels encouraged!

01/07	WED	1:00-2:30	GERE
01/14	WED	1:00-2:30	GERE
01/21	WED	1:00-2:30	GERE
01/28	WED	1:00-2:30	GERE

Let's Get Books Together: A LGBTQ+ Book Club

Join us for the discussion of books with themes relevant to the LGBTQ+ community. In addition to book discussion and socializing, the group will also serve as a source of support and safety for all members. A specific novel, story collection or non-fiction title is selected in advance for discussion during each meeting, although general discussion about LGBTQ+ literature may follow.

01/07	WED	6:30-7:30	GERE
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Make, Do & Mend - Fix Your Knits

Do your hats have holes? Are your mittens mangled by moths? Is your beanie too boring? A short demonstration of various mending and embellishing methods for knitwear will be followed by hands-on practice time. Bring your gnarly knits or any other project you want to work on.

01/10	SAT	3:30-5:00	GERE
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Reading After Dark: New Year, Ancient Evil

Do you enjoy the chills and thrills of spooky season? Do you long to be haunted year-round? Join us once a month for a ghoulishly-good book club where we will discuss creepy characters and petrifying plot twists!

01/14	WED	6:30-7:30	GERE
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Vegetable Stamp Prints

Not everyone is a fan of cleaning their plate, especially if vegetables are involved. You can put those extra greens to good use with some paper, paint, and a little whimsy. We will cut cross-sections of cauliflower, cabbage, corn cobs, mushrooms, etc. and make them into clever stamp paintings. Supplies will be provided, but please wear old clothing in case you decide to turn yourself into a veggie stamp! Registration is required.

01/18	SUN	4:00-5:00	GERE
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The One Ring: The Campaign

Do you like Lord of the Rings? If you desire to be part of a fellowship, register to participate in The One Ring: The Campaign. You and your fellow Player Heroes will venture throughout the lands of Middle-Earth to investigate rumors of the elusive Shadow and do what you can to keep it at bay.

01/21	WED	5:30-7:30	GERE
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ADULTS Continued

Trivia Night: Star Wars

Impress your friends and learn a few new facts at Trivia Night! Doors open at 6:15 pm with trivia starting promptly at 6:30 pm. Compete as a team or as an individual.

01/27	TUE	6:30-7:30	GERE
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Lincoln City Libraries staff is available for individual Tech Tutor sessions! Bring your own device or use a library computer.

Help with all devices | Internet | Email | Scanning Applications | Access to free digital media

For an appointment, call:
Eiseley Branch Library | 402-441-4250
Gere Branch Library | 402-441-8560

South Branch Library
2675 South St. | 402-441-8570

Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 10 AM-8 PM
Friday-Saturday: 10 AM-6 PM
Sunday: 12-8 PM

YOUTH

Construction Crew

Explore the library's collection of LEGO bricks, KEVA planks, and other building and STEAM toys during this unstructured playtime.

01/27	TUE	5:30-7:00	SOUTH
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TEENS

Tween Book Club

Join us after school the second Wednesday of the month for book chats, snacks, and fun!

01/14	WED	3:45-4:15	SOUTH
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Tween Craft Club

Calling all tweens looking to get crafty after school. Join us for a monthly crafting session. All materials are provided!

01/28	WED	3:45-4:15	SOUTH
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ADULTS

Crafternoon—Coffee and Coloring

Come and be cozy at South Branch Library. We'll have adult coloring sheets and coffee and hot cocoa for attendees.

01/18	SUN	2:00-3:00	SOUTH
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Hours:
Monday-Thursday: 10 AM-8 PM
Friday-Saturday: 10 AM-6 PM
Sunday: 12-8 PM

ALL AGES

3D Printer Training

Learn how to use a 3D printer! Come be trained on Walt's Bambu Lab A1 3D FDM printer and Anycubic Photon Mono M7 Pro SLA resin printer. Register online or by calling 402-441-4460. Must be 13+ years old or attend with an adult.

01/20	TUE	4:30-5:30	WALT
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YOUTH

Family Fun Night

Enjoy an unstructured evening with seasonal activities, games and crafts that are fun for the whole family.

01/08	THU	5:30-7:00	WALT
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LEGO Brick Sunday

Drop in and free-build with our LEGO brick collection.

01/18	SUN	2:00-4:00	WALT
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TEENS

Dice Guild for Beginners

Come one and all! A guild for adventurers, mystery-seekers and pathfinders of imagination! Featuring: Dungeons and Dragons 5E. If you're new to the game, this is where you want to start! Register online or by calling 402-441-4460.

01/08	THU	3:30-5:30	WALT
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Dice Guild for Advance Players

Come one and all! A guild for adventurers, mystery-seekers and pathfinders of imagination! Featuring: Dungeons and Dragons 5E. Register online or by calling 402-441-4460.

01/15	THU	3:30-5:30	WALT
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Dice Guild One-Shot - Rats vs Commoners

A guild for adventurers, mystery-seekers and pathfinders of imagination! In this special one day session, we'll enter the world of a new tabletop RPG. Learn the mechanics, create a character or two, and prepare for battle!

01/29	THU	3:30-5:30	WALT
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ADULTS

Circle of Friends

Circle of Friends is an adaptive program for adults accompanied by a support person. Activities may include crafts, exercise and stories. All abilities and skill levels are encouraged to attend!

01/06	TUE	1:00-2:30	WALT
01/13	TUE	1:00-2:30	WALT
01/20	TUE	1:00-2:30	WALT
01/27	TUE	1:00-2:30	WALT

ADULTS Continued

Crochet 101

This four-week adult class is designed for adults who are absolute beginners. Learn the basics of crochet including how to hold the hook and yarn, make a slip knot, chain, single crochet, and half double crochet. All supplies are provided. Space is limited and registration is required online or by calling 402-441-4460. Please register for this four-week class by 5:00 pm on the first class date of 1/8/2026. Classes will be held on 1/8, 1/15, 1/22 and 1/29 from 6:00 - 6:30 pm. After class, practice your new skills at our weekly open "Stitch Together" group at 6:30 pm.

01/08	THU	6:00-6:30	WALT
01/15	THU	6:00-6:30	WALT
01/22	THU	6:00-6:30	WALT
01/29	THU	6:00-6:30	WALT

Stitch Together Open Craft Night

Our open craft night is a welcoming space for adults of all skill levels to gather, learn, and share their creativity. Participants can work on their own projects, try new techniques, receive guidance, and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow crafters. No registration is required.

01/08	THU	6:00-7:30	WALT
01/15	THU	6:00-7:30	WALT
01/22	THU	6:00-7:30	WALT
01/29	THU	6:00-7:30	WALT

Silent Library

Enjoy refreshments from The Mill, a book swap and peace to read in silence.

01/21	TUE	6:00-7:30	WALT
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Williams Branch Library
4900 Mike Scholl St. | 402-441-8580

Hours:
Monday-Tuesday: 4 PM-8 PM
Wednesday-Thursday: 10 AM-6 PM
Friday-Sunday: 1-6 PM

TEENS

After-School Special

Come join us at our After-School Special, a weekly program with alternating activities, crafts, and movies aimed towards tweens and teens!

01/06	TUE	4:30-5:30	WILL
01/13	TUE	4:30-5:30	WILL
01/20	TUE	4:30-5:30	WILL
01/27	TUE	4:30-5:30	WILL



Event details are subject to change.
Please visit LincolnLibraries.org or call 402-441-8500.

READ WITH BENNY

Winter Reading Challenge



2026 All-ages Winter Reading Challenge

From January 1 to January 31, Lincoln City Libraries challenges you to read and complete activities for a chance to win prizes! Early registration begins on Monday, December 22, 2025.

Our theme this year is Read with Benny and we are playing Bingo! Earn virtual tickets for each hour of reading and every activity you complete. You can earn Bingo by reading for 10 hours. Get an extra virtual ticket for Bingo!

Work toward a full-card Bingo by continuing to read and complete activities. A full-card Bingo will earn you five extra tickets! Add your tickets to the prize packages you want in Beanstack.

Enroll by following the easy prompts at lincolnlibraries.beanstack.org, through the Beanstack app, or visit your neighborhood branch library and our staff will help get you started. Call 402-441-8500 if you need additional assistance.

Pick up a Bingo Card to mark off the squares you complete. Be sure you also enter the information through Beanstack by January 31, 2026, to qualify for the challenge prizes.

Winter Reading Challenge Ticket Prizes

Put all of your tickets in one prize package or spread them out over several prizes. These packages are \$25 per business, \$50 total per prize!

- Open Harvest and 402 Creamery
- Prehistoric Putt and Slim Chicken
- PlayStation and Amigos
- Canyon Joe's BBQ and Sweet Things by Marcy
- Little Beans Play Café and Raising Canes
- Marcus Theaters and Sower Books
- Sun Valley Lanes and Runza
- Lost in Fun and Culver's



City of Lincoln
LIBRARIES

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Thursday, January 1
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
Monday, January 19

Lincoln City Libraries
Lincoln, NE