



There are more public libraries in the United States than there are McDonald's restaurants— a total of 16,604 libraries, which include branches, compared to 14,339 McDonald's.

## Libraries & Ideas

Libraries are finding they are increasingly living in the borderlands between content consumption and content creation. As job skills evolve, and curricula changes to keep pace, the library is working to develop fun opportunities to help people learn. STEM education is nothing new, nor are incentives and programs aimed at promoting it. Libraries jumping on board and actively promoting STEM-based activities is unique. As Phil Goerner describes the benefit in *Library Journal's Digital Shift*, "The beauty of libraries utilizing STEM projects is that students are learning about real-world problems, asking questions, and then looking at creative solutions to reduce, or perhaps even resolve, these problems. Through these types of projects, my students have been learning to creatively work together to gain skills in science and engineering while working to solve challenges in their own communities and sometimes even the world." In the last year, Columbus Public Library has conducted several STEM-focused programs aimed at young adult patrons. Visitors to teen programs have experimented with circuitry, music creation, and basic machine building. The Teen Space offers programmable robots for in-library check-out that allow young people to interact with unique technology and get an applicable sense of programming. Another recent project features a peg board marble run that gives teens an opportunity to practice engineering concepts. The growing collection of STEM-related items for visitors to tinker with includes electronic building blocks called LittleBits, and an invention kit called "Makey Makey" which allows kids to work as developers. STEM programs at CPL give learners an opportunity to connect to STEM concepts and think creatively in a relaxed environment. The new Library/Cultural Arts Center includes a maker space where these types of activities and efforts can take place in a dedicated space. The library is poised to provide even more unique opportunities for developing skills, confidence, and curiosity in kids.

## Calendar Connection

Find more at [www.columbusne.us/library](http://www.columbusne.us/library)



*You still have time to participate in our Food For Fines program. Through June 14th, bring in cans of food, along with all your late items, and we will erase your fines. Donating canned goods will also waive any previous fines on your account. So if you would like to start again with a clean slate, and help those in need, drop off your cans of food at the library today!*

## ADULT SHORT STORY CONTEST

- Write a short story & enter it in our Short Story Contest by July 1
  - Submit in print to the library or via email to [library@columbusne.us](mailto:library@columbusne.us)
- Grand prize, second, third place awards
- Winning story to be published in the library

### Judging Criteria

- **Plot & Characterization**
- **Setting & Atmosphere**
- **Writing Quality & Mechanics**
- **Passion**



If you think you have a great story, then type it up and enter it in our short story contest. We are accepting 1-5 page stories until July 1st. Amazon gift cards will be awarded to the top three entries. The winning story will also be published in the library. So get creative and start writing!

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### Summer Reading Program

Don't worry if you missed our summer reading registration last week. You can still sign up to be a part of this exciting 8-week program. All ages are welcome. Check out the activities planned for the second half of June.



**Children's Summer Reading:** Each week has its own theme

Four & Two-Legged Heroes@ Your Library:

June 15th at 10:30 a.m.– movie in the Auditorium

June 16th at 10:30 a.m. in the Children's Room– Magical Exotic Farms Presentation and Petting Zoo

June 17th at 10:30 a.m. in the Auditorium– CPL Super Sidekicks. This program is for students just completing the 4th & 5th grades

June 18th at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.– Story Time in the Children's Room

Winged Heroes@ Your Library:

June 22nd at 10:30 a.m.– movie in the Auditorium

June 23rd at 10:30 a.m. in the Children's Room– Fontenelle Forest's Raptor Recovery Birds of Prey Presentation

June 24th at 10:30 a.m. in the Auditorium– CPL Super Sidekicks. This program is for students just completing the 4th & 5th grades

June 25th at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.– Story Time in the Children's Room

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### Teen Summer Reading:

Anytime Activity June 15th-21st– High-Tech Music Maker

June 17th at 1:00 p.m.– Superhero “Chia” Pets. Transform pantyhose, dirt and grass seed into a super pet that grows hair!

June 18th at 2:00 p.m.– Drumming Workshop.  
Decorate and make your own drum. Then drum along with musician Michael Fitzsimmons of Dancing Man Music



Anytime Activity June 22nd-28th– Read-In

June 24th at 1:00 p.m.– Crafty in the Kitchen. Craft your own delicious snack with our special guest, Mindy V.

June 25th at 2:00 p.m.– Bleached T-Shirts. Bring your own colored t-shirt to decorate. Wear clothes that are okay to stain. Signed permission slip from a parent is required

### Adult Summer Reading

On Saturday, June 20th at 2:00 p.m. in the Auditorium, we will be having our second crochet class. This is a beginners class for those that know how to crochet, but would like to learn more. Joanne will review how to read crochet patterns, and teach us how to do decorative stitches. Yarn and hooks will be provided, but if you have your own, you are welcome to bring them. At the end of class, everyone will be treated to homemade refreshments. There will also be a drawing to win a new crochet book. The class is free, and pre-registration is not required to attend.



## Your Columbus Public Library

### New Releases

There have been many great books added to our catalog recently. To place a hold on any of the titles listed below, or another book, please call the library at 402-564-7116.

Antiques Swap– Barbara Allan

Harbor Island: Rock Point– Carla Neggers

Ming Tea Murder– Laura Childs

Trauma– Michael and Daniel Palmer

Garden of Death– Chrystle Fiedler

14th Deadly Sin– James Patterson and

Don't Go Home– Carolyn Hart

Maxine Paetro

Dry Bones– Craig Johnson

The Guest Cottage– Nancy Thayer

## Connecting Readers & Writers



Happy Birthday to these authors:

Joyce Carol Oates– June 16, 1938

Chris Van Allsburg– June 18, 1949

Dan Brown– June 22, 1964

Lawrence Block– June 24, 1938

Pearl S. Buck– June 26, 1892

Dan Jurgens– June 27, 1959

I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves– Anna Quindlen