



# Library News

Volume 15 Issue 5  
May 2025

## Library Hours

9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday-Thursday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday & Saturday

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sunday

## Contact Us

402-844-2100

[www.norfolkne.gov/library](http://www.norfolkne.gov/library)

308 W. Prospect Ave., Norfolk

## Find us on

FB: @NorfolkPublicLibraryNE

Instagram: @NPLreads

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM

### Sign up starts May 12

Our annual reading incentive challenge is back! We have a reading challenge for every age. All reading counts, including audio books and reading to others. Give it a try!

How it works: Children from birth to age 4 have a goal of 100 books. Youth ages 5-12 have a time goal of reading 20 hours over the summer. Teens and adults can pick their challenge! Sign up for a traditional time-based challenge or a number-of-days reading challenge.

*The Day Challenge* encourages reading 20 times (once per day) over the summer. *The Time Challenge* is a time-based reading record.

For all challenges: Reach the halfway point to earn an Aquaventure pass. Complete your challenge for a prize pack and an entry into the Grand Prize drawing! Bonus: Keep reading to earn more tickets for the Grand Prize drawing.

Registration begins May 12. Sign up on the library's website and stop in to pick up your reading record.



## WHAT'S NEW?

Summer is right around the corner! We have a full schedule of programs and activities for youth and adults. Our Summer Reading Program kicks off on May 12. Challenge yourself to read more frequently over the summer and earn incentives. There is a reading challenge for every age. All reading counts, including audio books.

Speakers, crafts, robotics, music, and more are part of summer schedule. You do not need to sign up for the reading program to participate in activities. Join us at one of our events or programs—they are all free!

Our big news for the summer is the launch of our inaugural Norfolk Library Comicon! This will be a week-long celebration of literature, arts, and gaming, featuring authors, illustrators, and fun activities. Some events require registration. Check our website calendar for details. The NPL Comicon is June 16-21.



## SUMMER READING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

We have a full calendar of activities for all ages. Check for details and registration information on our website calendar. This year's reading theme is "Color Our World." You do not need to sign up for the Summer Reading Program to attend activities.

Our youth calendar will keep your kids engaged. Every Monday, enjoy Storytime and a family-friendly movie. Thursdays are for Storytime in the Park, which will meet at a different local park each week. Friday Morning Fun features entertainment for the whole family.

Throughout the summer, we will host kids camps like robotics, STEAM camps, and coding. Our Comicon week will feature prop-making, costume-making, comic book-making workshops, and gaming how-tos for youth. Adults can enjoy presentations by comic authors and artists as well as escape rooms. The final day of the Comicon features a big celebration in Johnson Park, complete with games, crafts, costumes, and vendors.

Summer programs for adults include makerspace workshops, library tours, and a variety of speakers. Plan for a puzzle and movie night as well as a book folding workshop. Ongoing programs include our adult book clubs and Creative Coloring.

Our Virtual Author Talk series will host notable children's and YA authors. You can watch these from home or join us at a Watch Party. These K-12 interview series are geared to specific age levels, but all are welcome to join.

We are hosting three contests as part of our Summer Reading Challenge: a coloring contest, a creative writing contest, and an art contest. Entry forms will be available in the library.

We hope to see you at our summer events!



## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

### May observances

The library will be closed on Sunday, May 11, for Mother's Day. We will also be closed Sunday and Monday, May 25-26, in observance of Memorial Day. Our drop-off boxes will be open for your convenience. Our digital library is always available via our website or the Libby app.



## STORYTIME AT THE FARMER'S MARKET

**May 31 at 9:30 a.m.**

Grow a reader by joining Youth Services Librarians Whitney and Jessie during Story Time at the Farmer's Market. We will read farm-themed stories and include a fun activity to get to know your farmers and what they do. Plan to meet at the band shell at River Point Square in Downtown Norfolk! In the event of bad weather, storytime will be cancelled.

Watch the calendar for more summer storytimes at the Farmer's Market.

## VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

### Free virtual discussions with acclaimed authors

Register and watch from anywhere! The author talks are recorded, so if you miss the live event, you can watch a recording later.

To see upcoming talks and to register for the event link, or to view past talks, visit our Digital Library on our website and click on "Author Talks."

#### ***How to Use Anxiety to Thrive with Dr. David H. Rosmarin*** **May 7 at 1 p.m.**

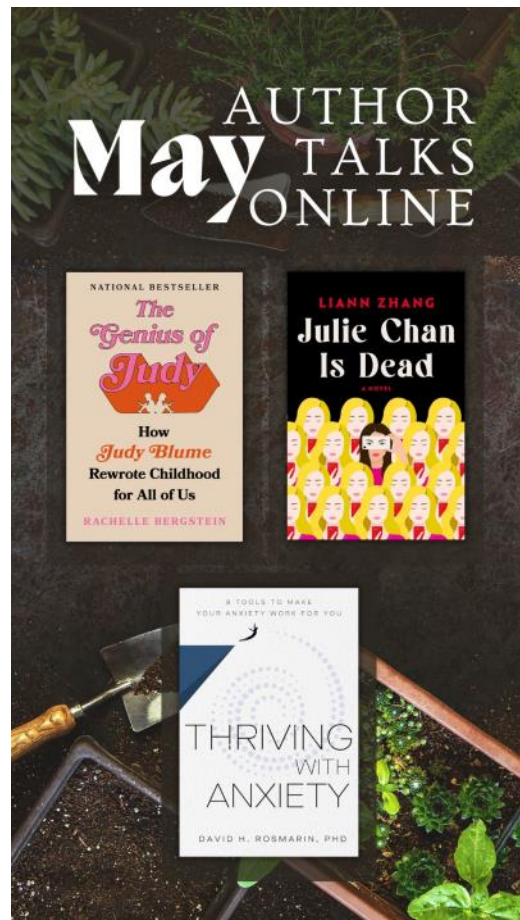
Let's face it: Everyone has anxiety. Furthermore, our incessant quest to rid ourselves of this ubiquitous human emotion worsens it. In this enlightening online webinar, you will learn how to use anxiety to become more self-accepting, connected to others, and resilient.

#### ***On Writing a Brilliant, Dark, and Diabolical Thriller with Author Liann Zhang*** **May 14 at 6 p.m.**

Grab your popcorn, grab your friend, and join us for a propulsive online conversation with author Liann Zhang as she chats with us about her debut thriller *Julie Chan is Dead*.

#### ***How Judy Blume Rewrote Childhood for All of Us with Author Rachelle Bergstein*** **May 21 at 1 p.m.**

You're invited to an online intimate conversation with bestselling author Rachelle Bergstein as she chats about her newest book *The Genius of Judy*. This book takes an expansive look at Judy Blume's life, work, and cultural impact, focusing on her most iconic—and controversial—young adult novels.



# NOTEWORTHY



## MAKERSPACE WORKSHOPS

### Beginner-friendly

Get hands-on experience with our free makerspace workshops. No previous experience is necessary, but basic computer skills are required. Workshops are suitable for ages 13 and up. All materials provided. Space is limited, so registration is requested. Sign up using our online event calendar or call the library for assistance. Free!

The May workshop is:



### Laser Cutter Workshop: Mini Wooden Sign

**May 13 at 6 p.m.**

Engrave a mini wooden sign (approximately 3"x6") using the Laser Cutter! Participants will be using CorelDraw software and the Laser Cutter to engrave a small wooden sign with a personalized message in this hands-on workshop. Spots are limited, so registration is required. Walk-ins welcome if spaces are available.

Class will be repeated in June. Please register for only one of the classes so more people can participate. Thank you!

## ADULT CRAFT KITS TO GO

### May 2, while supplies last

This month, the craft kits are for adults. Pick up your to-go kit any time starting May 2. First come, first served, while supplies last. The kits include everything you need to make a mini wind chime. Kits are available at the front desk and the drive up window. Free!



## CREATIVE COLORING FOR ADULTS

**Mondays at 2 p.m.**

Adults of all abilities are invited to spend an hour relaxing and coloring using the library's materials. No registration necessary. Drop in anytime during the program. Materials are provided, but you may bring your own project.



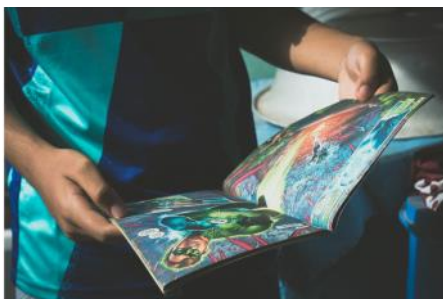
## COMICON VENDORS WANTED

**Hobbyists and businesses welcome!**

We are seeking vendor applications for the inaugural Norfolk Library Comicon's celebration in the park to be hosted at Johnson Park in Norfolk on Saturday, June 21, 2025 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. This event caps off a week of Comicon program and activities.

Vendors should be the creators and/or sellers of goods that are family-friendly and relevant to comic books, media, literature and fandom interests. Now is a great time to sell your comic books and action figures, or offer your comic/manga arts and crafts! Please note that edible items are not permitted for sale or distribution.

Apply by visiting our website. The deadline to apply is June 1. Questions can be directed to Whitney, our Youth Services Supervisor via email at [whitney@norfolkne.gov](mailto:whitney@norfolkne.gov) or by phone at 402-844-2100.



### About the Norfolk Library Comicon

This is the inaugural year of our "deconstructed" comicon. This is a family-friendly week of events designed to celebrate the creativity of comics, graphic novels, and fandoms. Throughout the week of June 16-21, we will host comic authors and artists, prop and costume workshops, and gaming, culminating on Saturday with a large celebration in the park, including a costume parade, LEGOs, crafts, activities, vendors, and appearances by the Star Wars 501st Legion and the Nebraska Ghostbusters. Check our online calendar for more details.



## ENGLISH CHATS

**May 3 and 17 at 10:30 a.m.**

Join our English Conversation Program! Designed for adults, this is a relaxed and welcoming space to practice speaking English with others. Improve your skills while having fun in a supportive environment. Whether you're a beginner or looking to build confidence, this program is the perfect opportunity to connect, learn, and grow. Don't miss out—come speak, laugh, and learn with us!

# CHECK IT OUT!

## Recent Acquisitions

Stop in to see what else is new!

### Juvenile



### Young Adult



### DVD



## MANGO

### Language lessons for free

Our Digital Library includes a subscription to Mango. Use it to learn any of its 70+ languages through interactive lessons. To get started, download the app or use the website. Log in with your library card to begin!



## FREE ADULT PROGRAMS

**Newcomers are always welcome!**

**CREATIVE COLORING FOR ADULTS:** Enjoy an hour of relaxing coloring every Monday at 2:00 p.m. The library provides colored pencils, coloring pages, and books. This program is open to adults of all abilities. Meets in Meeting Room A.

**TUESDAY NIGHT READS:** May 20 at 6:30 p.m. For adults, contact Emily at 402-844-2100 for more information. This month is *Benediction* by Kent Haruf.

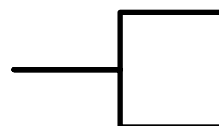
**WEDNESDAY MORNING BOOK CLUB:** May 28 at 10:00 a.m. For adults of all ages, contact Whitney at 402-844-2100 for more information. Meets in the Activity Room. This month's book is *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng.

**VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS:** Free monthly author talks featuring bestselling, award-winning, and acclaimed authors from around the world. This month features David Rosmarin, Liann Zhang, and Rachelle Bergstein. See the online event calendar to register for a session and send questions to the author.

**ENGLISH CHATS:** May 3 and 17 at 10:30 a.m. Conversational English practice for English language learners of all skill levels.

**TECH TUTORING:** Get personalized, individual help to learn how computers and technology work. Schedule a session by contacting Mike at 402-844-2100.

**OUTREACH:** The library will deliver library materials to patrons whose health or disability prevents them from visiting the library. If you are interested in this service for yourself or a loved one, please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Lenaya, at 402-844-2100.



"The only thing that you absolutely have to k

# SPEAKING SERVICES

## Bring the library to your meeting

The library promotes our free services outside the library to community groups and organizations. Staff are available to present to businesses, book clubs, and community organizations about library services. Our staff can speak on a variety of topics and can tailor content to the needs and interests of your group. Contact Jessica Chamberlain, Library Director, at 402-844-2100 to set up your presentation.



## FREE YOUTH PROGRAMS

**All programs meet in the Youth Activity Room unless otherwise noted.**

**STORYTIME:** Infants through age 8 are invited to enjoy a fun combination of books, songs, Spanish language experiences, storytelling, puppets, and creative early language and literacy activities. Storytime is a great introduction to library visits and literary experiences. There will be no regular Storytime during May.

**TEEN BOOK CLUB:** Thursday, April 3, at 5:15 p.m. Teen Book Club is for any teenager who loves to read and talk about books. Join anytime! Contact Jessie in the Youth Services Department at 402-844-2100 or [jroberts@norfolkne.gov](mailto:jroberts@norfolkne.gov) for more information. This month's book is *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo.

**COLORING FOR KIDS:** Meets on Wednesdays during the school year. For ages 6-15. Come relax and color using the provided materials. Coloring for Kids will resume in the fall.

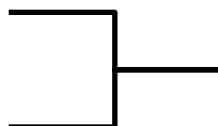
**LEGO® TIME:** For ages 6-12, this is a fun and creative opportunity to build imaginative, new projects using the library's LEGO® collection. LEGO Time will not meet during the summer. There will be fun LEGO events this summer—watch the calendar for announcements.

**GOLDEN SOWER BOOK CLUB:** Monday, May 19, at 3:45 p.m. This is a book club for ages 8-12 whose reading selections come from titles nominated for the Golden Sower Award, Nebraska's Children's Choice Literary Award. Contact Jessie in the Youth Services Department at 402-844-2100 or [jroberts@norfolkne.gov](mailto:jroberts@norfolkne.gov) for more information. This month's book is *The World Behind the Door* by Pari Thomson.

**1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN:** Instill an early love of reading! Any child from birth until kindergarten can participate. Completion may take from a few months to a few years, depending on how often you read. Children earn a free book and a prize for every 100 books read. Just one book a day equals more than 1,000 in three years. The concept is simple, but the rewards are priceless! To sign up, stop by the library's main service desk or our Youth Services desk.

**IMAGINATION LIBRARY:** Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free books to children from birth to age five. Norfolk residents may register their child at the library. The program is facilitated by Read Aloud Norfolk.

now, is the location of the library."- Albert Einstein



# MAY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<i>Scheduled activities could change due to circumstances beyond our control.</i>						
				<b>1</b> 5:15pm Teen Book Club	<b>2</b> Adult Craft Kits To Go—All Day  9:30am Community Event: Craft Time	<b>3</b> 10:30am English Chats
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 2pm Creative Coloring for Adults	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 1pm Virtual Author Talk: How to Use Anxiety to Thrive with Dr. David H. Rosmarin	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> CLOSED FOR MOTHER'S DAY	<b>12</b> 2pm Creative Coloring for Adults  SUMMER READING SIGNUP BEGINS	<b>13</b> 6pm Laser Cutter Workshop: Mini Wooden Signs	<b>14</b> 6pm Virtual Author Talk with Liann Zhang: On Writing a Brilliant, Dark, and Diabolical Thriller	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:30am English Chats
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 2pm Creative Coloring for Adults  3:45pm Golden Sower Book Club	<b>20</b> 6:30pm Tuesday Night Reads	<b>21</b> 1pm Virtual Author Talk with Rachelle Bergstein: How Judy Blume Rewrote Childhood for All of Us	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>  LIBRARY CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY—MONDAY	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10am Wednesday Morning Book Club	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:30am Storytime at the Farmer's Market