

Wilbraham Library News

Summer 2026



Plant a Seed, Read!

Summer Reading Challenge Blooms June 13

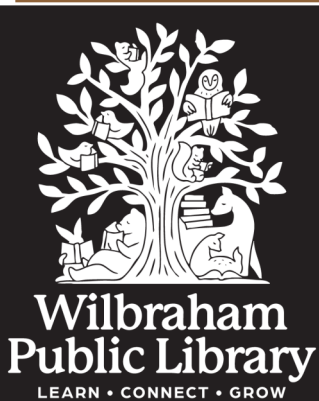
Get rooted in your reading this summer with our annual Reading Challenge! Starting Saturday, June 13, all ages are welcome to participate for a chance to win rewards and raffle prizes. Register by visiting wilbrahamlibrary.beanstack.com, or by downloading the Beanstack app.

Children: Log the minutes you read to earn badges and rewards. For every hour you read, you'll earn a badge— up to a maximum of 10 reading badges. You can read on your own or enjoy being read to. Participants will earn a free book, treasure chest prizes, and badges toward the raffle! Kids can also pick up paper logs at the library.

Teens: Read a book and enter it online with a short review. Each logged book with a review will earn 1 raffle ticket, up to 8. As you earn tickets, enter them in your choice of prizes including an Amazon Kindle, an Amazon Fire tablet, AirPods, a LEGO Super Mario set, a bedazzling kit, book sets, gift cards and more! All finishers of 1 book with a book review (or more) receive a new paperback book, a Rice Fruit Farm ice cream coupon, and more!

Adults: Read books and log them with a short review. Each book with a review will earn 1 raffle ticket, up to 10. As you earn each ticket, enter them into your choice of prizes including an Amazon Kindle, gift cards and vouchers to local businesses, and more. Adults can also complete paper review forms available at the library.

All reading and raffle tickets must be submitted by August 8 at midnight. Raffle winners will be announced starting August 12.



Mon to Wed 9-8
Thurs & Fri 9-5
Sat 9-2

Closed Sundays
& Holidays

413-596-6141

New WPL Logo

Thank you to all the artists who submitted entries to the library's logo contest! We were blown away by the talent of our community, and we are grateful for your support.

We were pleased to announce the winner of the contest, Alessandra Corbett, at our Volunteer Breakfast on April 25.

Stay tuned for more information about our new look, and let us know what you think!

A Thank You to the Community



Community members gather to discuss the Town budget.

Happy Summer '26! The library is buzzing with activity and excited to share our summer reading programs with the community! We owe so many of you a huge thank you for stepping up to support us during the budget season. Your testimonies, calls and emails to those who make financial decisions for the town really

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Wilbraham Friends

Wilbraham Friends of the Library Inc. Board Members

Mary Bandouveres
Kristen Harvey
Martha Lyman
Tanja Olson
Judy Falzone

Officers

Gayle Fogarty, Co-President
Sara Martin, Co-President
Susan Magee, Clerk
Jo Ayers, Treasurer

Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

Liaisons

Allison Demetri
Caroline Euber



Thank you!

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made the difference. You shared how important this public library is to you and your families. You told them how this library is a vibrant community gathering space that enriches the town in so many ways. We help people to read, study, learn, gather, find a job and start businesses. We support the schools and teachers, and in particular, the middle school that has no library. Your personal stories about the many ways you and your families enjoy, use and depend upon the library highlight the need for our service. You know the tremendous value of the rate of return of dollars spent on your library. We thank you sincerely and look forward to welcoming you soon!

-- Melissa Harter, Library Director

Letter from the Presidents

Dear Friends,

Summer is upon us, and, after this particularly harsh winter, we are all ready to relax and enjoy the warm months ahead. As co-presidents of the Wilbraham Friends of the Library, we wish to extend our sincere thanks for the outpouring of support shown to the library this year.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make the 2026 Book Sale, WFOL's biggest fundraising event of the year, such a resounding success. Thank you to the book donors, the organizers, the volunteers, the Library Director and Library Staff, and the patrons who shopped the sale.

THANK YOU to everyone who sprang into action when the library was facing a budget crisis. So many of you wrote heartfelt letters and spoke at the Select Board meeting and/or the Finance Committee meeting expressing how important the library is to you and your families. Towns throughout Massachusetts are expecting increased financial challenges in the years ahead, and we will all need to continue showing up and speaking out to publicize that the Wilbraham Public Library is a treasured town resource.

Our fantastic library staff has some wonderful programs planned to keep adults and children engaged and entertained over the summer months. Most of these programs are funded by the WFOL and, therefore, are made possible by you-- through your membership dues, through your generous donations to WFOL, and through your support of fundraising events. By the way, the library also offers a cool, comfortable place to escape to when the temperatures rise!

On a final note, it is not too early to begin collecting your items for the annual Textile Drive in the fall. As you sort through your closets and storage areas, please remember to bag up those unused items and help to continue to support the library!

-- Gayle Fogarty and Sara Martin, co-presidents of WFOL



Chill with Choo Choo!

Drop-in with a Therapy Dog,
Thursdays, June 11, July 9, & August 13
from 9:00 - 10:00 am.

Charlie will be back at the library this summer! Stop by the library on the 2nd Thursday of the month to visit a certified therapy dog.

Choo Choo Charlie the Pomeranian, therapy dog with Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, will be available in the Brooks Room to brighten up your day. All ages welcome, no registration required.

Parents/guardians, please remain with your child(ren) while visiting Charlie.

Adult Services

Programs are for ages 18+ and are supported by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library.

Please refer to the online Event Calendar for detailed information about each program & registration information.

Adult Programs



Raise The Coop: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Chickens,

Tues, June 2 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm.

Step into the world of backyard chickens and discover the joys of having your own feathered friends. You'll learn everything you need to know to start and maintain a happy, healthy flock of chickens, all while using sustainable and organic practices. Led by Mark

Gostkiewicz of Tri Gable Lea Farm.

Dementia: The New Pandemic & How to Protect Vulnerable Adults,

Mon, June 15 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm.
Dementia is impacting more families than ever—often quietly, often without enough support or understanding. Learn about awareness, advocacy, and most importantly, what we can do to support our loved ones and one another. Led by Teri Frykenberg of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur.

Adult Crafternoon: Beaded Bookmarks,

Fri, June 26 from 2:00 - 3:30 pm.

Join us to design a bookmark using beads.
Gentle Yoga, Sat, June 27 from 9:30 - 10:30 am.
Join Tama Lang, Breathe 4 Change trained yoga instructor, to slow down and reconnect with yourself during



this gentle, easy flow yoga session. Participants will focus on breath awareness, light movement, and stress reduction. This session is designed for all experience levels, including beginners.

Music of the Beatles,

Mon, June 29 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm.
Musician Melodious Zach will perform the Beatles' favorites, and entertain you with Beatles trivia. *This program is supported by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural*

Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

DIY Terrariums,

Tues, July 7 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm.
Design your own miniature terrarium! We'll provide the clear vessel, soil, plants, moss, and figurines. You bring the creativity!

Mosaic Coaster Workshop,

Mon, July 13 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.
Transform simple tiles into beautiful, functional art! Local artist Erin Boughamer of Paint Sip Fun will teach adults to create their own unique mosaic coasters, made with tiles, grout, and creativity.

Adult Crafternoon: Bee Baths,

Fri, July 17 from 2:00 - 3:30 pm.
We will create small bee baths that can be used in a shady garden spot for any thirsty bees.



Wellness That Works: Simple Habits for

Feeling Your Best, Mon, July 20 from 5:00 - 6:00 pm.

Explore practical lifestyle habits that support energy, connection, and overall well-being. Led by Tina Ferri of Ferri Senior Care Consulting, LLC.

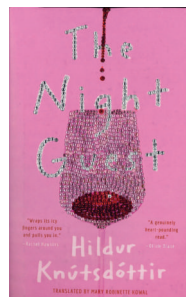
Intro to Ancestry Library Edition,

Wed, July 29 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm.
Assistant Director Mary Bell will give a brief presentation in the Brooks Room, using examples from her own family tree, in researching genealogy using Ancestry Library Edition. Then for the remainder of the time, participants will be able to use library computers or their own devices to search while in the library.

Appropriate for beginners and advanced genealogists.

Bling Your Book,

Mon, August 3 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm.
Add some sparkle to your shelf! Using rhinestones and plenty of glue, you'll bedazzle a plain book cover into a dazzling, one-of-a-kind masterpiece. Don't forget to bring a book to decorate. We recommend bringing a book with a clear, simple design.



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Adult Services



America's 250th Anniversary!

Celebrate the United States Semiquincentennial at the library! Join us in person on August 10 for an evening with Paul Revere as portrayed by historical interpreter & reenactor Michael Lepage. We are also excited to partner with the Ashland Public Library to present a series of nine virtual programs, all related to America's 250th. Each program takes place on Mondays at 7:00 pm throughout the summer.

- **Boston, 1776 with author J.D. Dickey, Mon, June 22**
- **Common Soldier, Uncommon Hero with Bruce E. Mowday, Mon, June 29**
- **Iron in the Water with Adventurer in History Kiersten Marcil, Mon, July 6**
- **Everyday Life in 1776: Two Nerdy History Girls Discuss, Mon, July 13**
- **The Black experience of the Revolution with Gracia Collins Rich, Mon, July 20**
- **The Escapes of David George with author Gregory E. O'Malley, Mon, July 27**
- **The Convention with author Lars D. H. Hedbor, Mon, August 3**
- **Act Worthy of Yourselves with author Salina B. Baker, Mon, August 10**
- **Celebrating America with Presidential Doodler Heather Rogers, Mon, August 17**



Adult Programs

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An Evening with Paul Revere, Mon, August 10 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm.

Paul Revere. His name evokes images of the famous "Midnight Ride" of April 18-19, 1775. Hear his story as told by historical interpreter Michael Lepage, culminating with that night in April when he spread the alarm "to every Middlesex village and farm" that the regulars were coming out!



Plant Swap! Sat, August 15 from 12:00 - 1:00 pm.

Liven up your home by swapping or adopting an indoor plant! Bring your extra houseplants, clippings, and propagations to the library to swap with others & chat with fellow plant lovers. See the Event Calendar for more details & guidelines.

Adult Crafternoon: Painted Seashells, Fri, August 21 from 2:00 - 3:30 pm.

We will use natural scallop seashells to make trinket trays.

Virtual Author Talks



Our virtual author talk series continues through the summer! The Library Speakers Consortium showcases several bestselling, award-winning, and highly acclaimed authors from around the world each month.

The featured writers and thought leaders cover a wide range of fiction and nonfiction genres.

This season features authors such as Matt Dinniman, author of the bestselling *Dungeon Crawler Carl* series, Karen Slaughter, Lucy Foley, and more.

Each live webinar has the option to submit questions for Q&A. If you're not able to watch live, check out the archive of recorded webinars online. Visit libraryc.org/wilbrahamlibrary to register.

Teen Services

All programs are for students entering Grades 6-12, are supported by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library, and require online registration, unless otherwise noted.

Teen Programs



Copper Bookmark Workshop, Wed, July 1 from 5:00 - 6:30 pm.

Join us for a fun evening of hammering on metal! Taught by metalsmith Heather Beck, teens will learn about the structure of metal, how to create drawings in metal, and use letter stamps to add words on copper bookmarks. Each teen will craft a unique copper bookmark to take home. Registration starts June 17.

DIY Terrariums, Tues, July 7 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm.

Teens will build their own miniature terrarium. We'll provide the clear vessel, soil, plants, moss and figurines, and you bring the creativity! Terrariums are perfect for desk decor and easy to care for. Registration starts June 23.

Digital Art & Drawing, Wed, July 8 from 2:30 - 4:00 pm.

Join Kevin Figueroa to learn the basics of digital art creation with an iPad! In this class, we cover the basics of creating art in the Procreate app and will cover features like colors, brushes, layers, and more. The class includes an activity in which a piece of unique artwork is created. Registration starts June 23.

Mosaic Coasters with Paint Sip Fun, Mon, July 13 from 4:00 - 5:30 pm.

Transform simple tiles into beautiful, functional art! Local artist Erin Boughamer will teach teens to create their own unique mosaic coasters, made with tiles, grout, and creativity. No experience necessary. Lemonade and water will be available. Registration starts June 29.

Bingo for Books, Wed, July 15 from 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

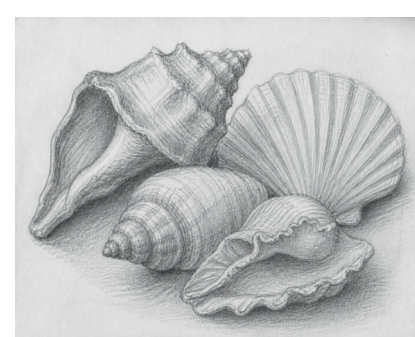
Play a few rounds of bingo, maybe win a book of your choice! There will be a wide variety of books available as prizes for the lucky winners! Snacks and drinks will be available. Registration starts June 29.

Henna Tattoos & Sticker Art, Tues, July 21 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

Join us for 2 programs mashed into 1: henna tattoos & sticker art. Have fun with friends while creating sticker art, and get your favorite henna tattoo! Teens will get their choice of a henna design from Mandy of Wicked Good Henna. She uses safe high-quality, natural henna that can last for 1-2 weeks. Also during this 2 hour program, teens will choose their own sticker art design from many choices, including animals, flowers, travel, masterpieces, and birds. Registration starts July 6.

Flower Blossom Soapmaking Workshop, Wed, July 22 from 4:00 - 5:00 pm.

Teens will create their own multi colored soap using glycerin based soap, colored soap cubes, cosmetic grade glitter, flowers and natural scents. Each teen will take home 2 unique handmade soaps. Registration starts July 6.



Seashells Sketching Workshop, Tues, July 28 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

Join us for a seashell sketching workshop and create your own small coastal still life! Ellie from Art Lessons with Ellie will be teaching several drawing techniques as we sketch seashells from observation. *Sponsored in full by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.* Registration starts July 13.

Bling Your Book, Tues, Aug 4 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

Add some sparkle to your bookshelf by bedazzling your favorite book cover! Using rhinestones and glue, you'll transform a plain book cover into a treasure. Don't forget your own book to decorate, or you can decorate one of ours to keep. We recommend bringing a book with a clear, simple design. Registration starts July 20.

Children's Services

Programs are supported by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library. Online registration is required.

Tonie & Yotos to Borrow

Introducing Yoto and Tonies audio players to the children's department! Patrons can now check out these players and stories using a library card. It's a fun, screen-free listening experience perfect for kids of all ages.



Kids & Family Programs

K-3 Crafternoon, Thurs, June 4 from 3:45 - 4:30 pm, Mon, July 13 from 12:30 - 1:15 pm, & Mon, August 10 from 12:30 - 1:15 pm.

Children in K-3rd grade are invited to join Ms. Erica for a storytime and craft! Registration is required and parents/guardians must remain in the library during the event.

Lego Club, Wednesdays, June 10, July 15, and August 12 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

Each summer session includes a raffle! Kids receive a ticket for a chance to win a 29-piece LEGO plant. Drawings are at 6:00 pm—kids must be present to win. This program is suitable for ages 5+. Parents are required to stay with children for the duration of the program.

Saturday Toddler Time, Saturdays, June 13, July 11, & August 8 from 10:00 - 10:45 am.

Children 4 and under and their adult are invited to join Ms. Erica for a Saturday storytime. Together we will read picture books, learn classic children's songs, and dance, wiggle, and shake our sillies out! Coffee will be provided for the adults. Designed for working parents and guardians unable to attend weekday events, but all are welcome. Registration is required.

5th Grade Step Up, Wed, June 17 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm.

Current 5th grade students and their families are invited to celebrate beginning a new chapter as they graduate from WPL Children's Services to the Teen Loft & programming! A short ceremony celebrating our graduates will take place on the lawn followed by a reception with refreshments in the Brooks Room. The Teen Loft will be open for students to explore. Registration is required.



Paint Your Own Clay Axolotl! Thurs, June 25 from 2:00 - 2:45 pm.

Join us to decorate your own adorable clay axolotl sculpture and take it home the same day. All supplies included— just bring your imagination! Registration required. For grades 3-5.

Live Animal Shows, Mon, June 29 at 10:00 & 11:00 am.

Amazing Animals: Surviving Life in the Wild teaches participants what animals eat and how plants aid their survival. Note: Two 30-minute shows will be offered; please register for only one session.

Outdoor Family Concert, Wed, July 1 at 10:30 am.

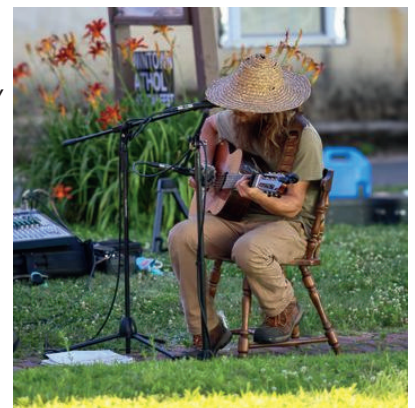
Join Eli Elkus' for a free, family-friendly morning of folk music and storytelling inspired by nature, simpler times, and everyday life. Fun for all ages! *This event is made possible by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.* This event will be held rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will move indoors.

iPad Art, Wed, July 8 from 1:00 - 2:30 pm.

Learn digital art on an iPad! This class covers Procreate basics—colors, brushes, layers, and more. You'll create a unique artwork using provided tools. Registration is required. Grades 3-5 only.

STEM Seed Challenge, Thurs, July 9 at 11:00 am.

If you were a seed, how would you travel? Join a Hitchcock Center educator as



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Children's Services

Kids & Family Programs cont. from page 6

we read about the sneaky ways many seeds hitch a ride to far-off places. Then engineer your own seed pod out of common materials and put it to the test: How far does it fly through the air? Recommended for K-5.

STEAM Cardboard Creators, Thursdays July 16, August 6, & August 20 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

A STEAM series for kids who love to build, tinker, and create! Help transform the space into imaginative architectural landscapes inspired by:

July 16 | Theme: European Castles and Cathedrals

August 6 | Theme: Modern Cities

August 20 | Theme: Ancient Monuments

Drop in anytime during the 2-hour session. Recommended for ages 6+ due to the use of sharp tools. See the library calendar for full details.

Fall Youth Sports Equipment Swap, Sat, July 18 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Donation Drop Offs July 11 - July 17 inside the library.

The library will be accepting donations of youth sports equipment for the following Fall-season sports: football, soccer, field hockey, volleyball, tennis, swimming, ice hockey, and cheerleading. See the library calendar event for a full list of requested items and donation guidelines. On Saturday, July 18, parents and guardians are invited to shop the donated equipment for free. Wilbraham Parks & Recreation staff will be available to answer questions about registration and gear.

Music and Movement, Mon, July 20, and August 10 at 9:30 am.

Multi-sensory upbeat movement for ages 2-5. Songs will focus on essential skills like following directions, using your senses, and exploring how your body moves and functions. *Pathways for Parents* is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Henna Tattoos, Tues, July 21, slots starting at 3:30 pm.

Mandy from Wicked Good Henna is returning for a favorite summer program! Reserve your time slot today. Henna is safe for all skin types and can typically last a few weeks.

Springfield Symphony Orchestra Musical Petting Zoo, Thurs, July 23 from 1:00 - 2:00 pm.

The Musical Petting Zoo is an engaging, hands-on traveling exhibit of musical instruments for children in PreK-5. After the instruments are introduced, participants can bow a violin, blow a horn, or tap a drum. *This event is made possible by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.*

Unicorn Balloon Twisting Storytime, Wed, July 29 from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm.

Join Brie's Balloons for a fun, creative balloon twisting storytime! Enjoy exciting stories, a craft, and balloon magic—perfect for all ages, especially children 3-8. Brie will also twist balloons for attendees at the end!

Ed Pop Magic Show, Tues, August 4 at 10:30 am.

Enjoy Ed Popielarczyk, a professional magician and balloon sculptor. Ed's interactive magic show—packed with storytelling, laughs, and audience participation makes kids part of the magic!

End of Summer Rollerskating Party, Thursday, August 13 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

Kids' Summer Reading Challenge participants are invited to a rollerskating party at Interskate 91! Pick up your free ticket at the library—donated by Interskate 91.



Wilbraham Friends of the Library
25 Crane Park Drive
Wilbraham, MA 01095

Library News Summer 2026

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Programs for all ages

One Book One Community

The library is pleased to partner with One Book One Community of HWRSD this summer! Each year, the OBOC selection committee chooses a book written by a major author and invites Hampden and Wilbraham residents to read the same book at the same time and explore it through a series of free programs.

This year's book is *The Trumpet of the Swan* by E.B. White. There will be copies of the book available at the library. The library will also feature a StoryWalk book, scavenger hunt, and activities that match the themes of this year's selection. Visit the [OBOC of HWRSD Website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for more information.

New & Renewing Friends, February - April 2026

Deborah Bean, Susan & Charlie Bennett, Doug & Linda Burr, Martha R. Clark, Claire Cloutier, Julie Crampton, Jolene Cusson, Candy Dearborn, Megan Donnelly, Jay & Ruth Dwyer, Nancy Dwyer, Gayle & Bill Fogarty, Carol Fountain, Barbara Galanek, Shannon Gifford, Mary Ann Gioscia, Nicola Gioscia, Dan & Susan Hanscom, Megan & Brian Harrigan, Norma Hill, Elaine & Robert Holdsworth, Laurel Holt, Liz & Steve Jones, Janice Knittle, Lynne Anne Leone, Margaret Manzi, Carol McMinn, Leo Morrissey, Doris Naiman, Carol Hansen, Tanja Olson, Barbara Pilarcik, Mary Jo Quigley, Mary-Lou & Bill Sanderson, Kathy & Frank Sarnelli, Elizabeth Sickelco, Fredy Steng, Margaret Superneau, Elizabeth Tavares, Rae. C Teed, Karen & Michael Thomes, Maggie Tran, Karen & Mark Tresch, Phyllis Walsh, Rogger & Connie White, Rick & Brenda Willard, Sam & Beverly Williams, Scott & Sheila Williams, Six members would like to remain anonymous.

