



Issue 2026-05

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Get Outside

Greetings!

If you've been by the library lately, you've no doubt seen the construction on the back side of the library yard. By the time you read this, the project may be completed.

Last year, we decided to add a permanent pavilion to replace the tent we've erected the past few years since Covid. The library received two grants to push this project forward. The Association for Small and Rural Libraries (ARSL), through the generosity of the Manton Foundation, awarded the library a 2025 Sustainable & Resilient New England Libraries Grant. We also received a grant through Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities, an American Library Association (ALA) initiative that provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities. Coupled with very generous donations from our Friends group and others, we were able to fund this project without any taxpayer money.

The pavilion will provide covered seating as well as space to hold library programs. The sidewalk now runs from our back door to the pavilion, so the space is accessible to everyone. No more navigating the uneven grass and runoff dip in the yard.

We hope everyone will take advantage of this additional green space in town. Plenty of room for kids to run around, play our giant musical instruments, or take a stroll through our StoryWalk®. There are also benches for sitting, reading, and relaxing. We're excited to use the space for our summer reading programs, which begin at the end of June.

Hope to see you soon,

Laura

Laura Clerkin
Library Director
lclerkin@bethlehemnhlibrary.gov

Programs at a Glance



MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Let's Talk 10:15am Gaming Club 2:30pm	2 Un-Book Club 11am
3	4 Lego Club 2:30pm DNA Doe Project 6pm	5 Mah Jongg 12:30pm Arts & Crafts Club 2:30pm	6	7 Friends Meeting 5:30pm	8 Let's Talk 10:15am	9
10	11 Lego Club 2:30pm Library Trustees 7pm	12 Mah Jongg 12:30pm Arts & Crafts Club 2:30pm	13 Readers Cafe Book Discussion 1:30pm Biking Safely 6pm	14 Picture Books & Pizza 6pm	15 Let's Talk 10:15am Gaming Club 2:30pm	16 Readers Cafe Book Discussion 9am
17	18 Lego Club 2:30pm Chicken Keeping 6pm	19 Mah Jongg 12:30pm Arts & Crafts Club 2:30pm	20 Climate Film Fest 5pm Death Cafe 4pm	21 Build-a-Book Workshop 2:30pm	22 Let's Talk 10:15am VR for Kids 2:30pm	23 Garden Tea Party 11am
24	25 LIBRARY CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY	26 Mah Jongg 12:30pm Arts & Crafts Club 2:30pm	27 Trivia Night 6pm	28 Build-a-Book Workshop 2:30pm	29 Let's Talk 10:15am VR for Adults 11:30am	30

KEY: Purple =Kids Red=Adults Green=All ages

Holiday Closure: Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day

MAY PROGRAMS



THIS MONDAY:

Investigative Genealogy and the DNA Doe Project

Chelsea Hanrahan will speak on investigative genetic genealogy, the emerging practice of using genetic information to identify suspects or victims in criminal cases. Hanrahan's talk explains what she does and how she uses science to help identify John and Jane Doe cases.

Monday, May 4th 6pm

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Biking Safely with Cars/Driving Safely with Bicycles: a program with the Bike-Walk Alliance of NH and Bike the North Country

Learn how bicyclists and motorists can coexist on our roads. A special Bike Month program.



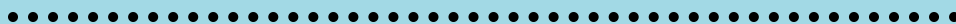
Family Event: Picture Books & Pizza

Enjoy a FREE pizza dinner while learning the basics of how authors make picture books! In this intro class your family will brainstorm a book idea and make a cover concept to display on our Storywalk®!

You'll also have the opportunity to sign up your child for our Build-a-Book Workshop after school (see below).

For ages 7-14 and their friends/family.

Thursday May 14th 5:30pm



Garden Tea Party

Our annual event! For kids 2-9 and their chaperones.

- Storytime
- Drinks and snacks
- Crafts
- Bring your tea set and Doll/Stuffie for pretend play

Please sign up for this event by calling 603-869-2409.

Saturday, May 23rd 11am

MORE PROGRAMS For Adults



Backyard Chicken Keeping
Monday, May 18th 6pm



Death Cafe
Wednesday, May 20th 4pm

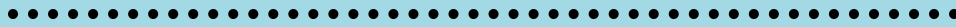
Curious if you could be a chicken keeper?

Learn how to get started.

- Buying Chicks
- Equipment you need
- Life Stages
- All about Eggs
- Keeping chickens healthy

Part of our Simple Living program series.

A respectful and confidential place to discuss death, with no agenda, objective or theme. Refreshments will be served.



Trivia Night

Wednesday, May 27th 6pm

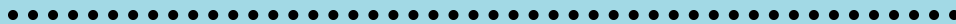
Join our monthly Trivia Night! Come alone or with a group. All ages welcome for this friendly competition.



Virtual Reality for Adults

Friday, May 29th 11:30am

Play with our VR goggles!



Ongoing Programs

Tuesdays 12:30-2:30pm **Mah Jongg** All abilities welcome!

Fridays 10:15-11:30am **Let's Talk Discussion Group**

- 5/1 Oldest Possessions
- 5/8 "Disabilities"
- 5/15 Reality TV
- 5/22 First Impressions
- 5/29 Birthday Traditions



For Readers



Un-Book Club

Saturday, May 2nd 11am

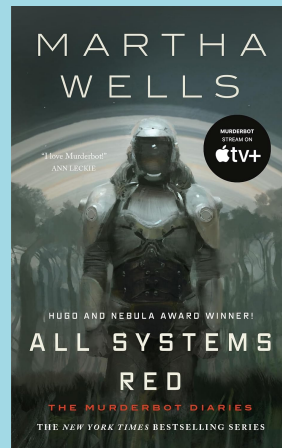
Want to talk about books, but short on time? This is the book club for YOU! No required reading! Come as you are, and talk about what you've been reading! Come away with awesome book recommendations! We have coffee!

Want even less pressure? Join us via Google Meet (you can stay in your PJs!)

Google Meet joining info and QR

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/dit-onus-khv>

Or dial: (US) +1 954-947-7859 PIN: 964 354 854#



Reader's Cafe Book Club

Wednesday, May 13th 1:30pm AND
Saturday, May 16th 9am
Same Book - Two Convenient Times!

This month we discuss *All Systems Red* by Martha Wells

In a corporate-dominated spacefaring future, planetary missions must be approved and supplied by the Company. Exploratory teams are accompanied by Company-supplied security androids, for their own safety. But in a society where contracts are awarded to the lowest bidder, safety isn't a primary concern. On a distant planet, a team of scientists are conducting surface tests, shadowed by their Company-supplied 'droid—a self-aware SecUnit that has hacked its own governor module, and refers to itself (though never out loud) as "Murderbot." Scornful of humans, all it really wants is to be left alone long enough to figure out who it is. But when a neighboring mission goes dark, it's up to the scientists and their Murderbot to get to the truth.

[Click here for more Readers Cafe information](#)

For Kids



Lego Club
Mondays 2:30-3:30pm
Best for ages 5-12

Arts & Crafts Club
Tuesdays 2:30-3:30pm
Best for ages 5-12
NEW DAY FOR MAY

Gaming Club
1st & 3rd Fridays 2:30-4pm
Best for ages 10 and up
May 1st and May 15th

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Build-a-Book Workshop

Thursdays May 21st, May 28th, and June 4th 2:30pm

A continuation of our Picture Books & Pizza program, this is a three-week afterschool program for young authors to write and illustrate their own picture book.

Participants will learn the basics of how a book is developed, from idea generation, editing, and a final draft. The books will then be laminated and available for checkout at the library!

You don't have to have attended Picture Books & Pizza to participate, but you do need to commit to all three sessions. For ages 7-14. Sign up is required.

This program is made possible by a Rural Library Grant from Children's Literacy Foundation (CLiF)



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Virtual Reality for Kids

Friday, May 22nd 2:30pm

Play with our VR goggles!
Because of goggle size, this program is for ages 8 and up.

Extra Bonus! Attraction Passes!

Many thanks to the Friends of Bethlehem Public Library for purchasing passes for our patrons! All the details are [here](#)!



NH State Parks Pass

Good for two adults and up to four dependents.



Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium

Good for two adults and their children or grandchildren under age 17

Newsletter Sign Up

Don't miss out! Did someone forward this to you? You can sign up to receive our newsletters: this monthly general newsletter, and/or our occasional newsletter with information geared toward adults with children ages 2-5.

[Click here to sign up!](#)



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