Welcome to the very first edition of your Library’s new Connect magazine! What you’re holding is the product of a dream two years in the making. We wanted to create a tool that would give you a comprehensive picture of the wonderful things happening at the Library every season.

It felt fitting to start this new adventure in summertime, given this year’s Summer Reading theme: “Adventure Begins at Your Library.”

Our first issue showcases all the fantastic summer events we have planned. As you’ll see, there’s a lot happening, but Summer Reading isn’t just special events! Inside you’ll learn how to register for Summer Reading, get suggestions for great titles, and discover library collections.

Thank you for going on this new adventure with us!

Julia Turpin, Library Director

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**Summer Reading: Staff Picks**

This summer, your Library’s staff is steeped in adventure stories! Here are some of our new and classic favorites. You can place holds on them at jcpl.org!

- Natalie Haynes: *Stone Blind* (Jaden’s Pick)
- R. O. Kwon: *What the Hell* (Em’s Pick)
- Isabel Irazábal: *River Knows* (Mandy’s Pick)
- David Grann: *The Lost City of Z* (Elizabeth’s Pick)
- Rick Riordan: *Percy Jackson* (Alexis’s Pick)
Summer Reading
June 3 to July 28

what
Summer Reading is an annual nationwide reading challenge that libraries have held every year since the 1890s. It was originally started by librarians as a way to keep kids reading and learning during the summer months.

who, when, where
Over the years, Summer Reading has grown and evolved to be for all ages. Our program is divided by age: preschool, school age, teens, and adults. The purpose remains the same though—keep people reading. No matter what age you are, we hope you’ll spend the summer reading with your Library!

This year’s Summer Reading runs from Monday, June 3-Sunday, July 28. You’ll find opportunities for fun and learning at your Library all summer long, from events to prizes to book recommendations.

how
Participating in Summer Reading is fun, easy, and can be done from anywhere! You spend the summer reading, tracking your progress, winning prizes, and attending events.

You can register for Summer Reading beginning Wednesday, May 15.

To get started, scan the QR code or visit jcpltn.beanstack.org. You’ll create an account with Beanstack, our reading challenge platform. From there you can register for the 2024 Summer Reading Challenge. If you’ve used Beanstack before, just sign in with your existing account to register for this summer.

Once Summer Reading officially kicks off on June 3, you’ll use Beanstack all summer to log your reading progress, get book recommendations, and write book reviews. You’ll earn badges as you meet your reading goals and complete related activities!

You can register for Summer Reading beginning Wednesday, May 15.

Prizes
Each age group earns prizes for reading, attending events, doing activities, and writing book reviews.

preschool and school age kids
» Badge book to track progress
» Weekly treasure chest surprises
» Free book halfway through summer
» Scholastic book bucks

teens and adults
» Free book for teens
» Weekly prize drawings
» Grand prize drawings for both ages

More Info: jcpl.org/summer-reading

The first 50 people to sign up for Adult Summer Reading also get a free tote bag!

BIG BANG BOOM CONCERT
Tuesday, June 11 • 9:30 a.m. • King Commons Natural Adventure Area
Enjoy an outdoor concert with kindie rock band Big Bang Boom! The band plays high-energy children’s music that gets everyone up on their feet.

ROGER DAY CONCERT
Tuesday, June 11 • 9:30 a.m. • King Commons Natural Adventure Area
Hear a rumble in the jungle with children’s musician Roger Day! His signature wit, whimsy, and wordplay make his concerts fun for the whole family.

LIBCON VI: TOME RAIDERS
Saturday, July 27 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
No matter your age, you’ll love our sixth annual fandom convention. LibCon VI: Tome Raiders features local vendors, games, and activities for all ages. And of course, come dressed in your favorite adventure costume and enter the cosplay contest!

Events may be subject to change. Please confirm details at jcpl.org/events.
TEEN & TWEEN BOOK CLUB
Wednesday, July 17 • 6 p.m.
Jones Meeting Center
Ages 10-16 discuss “Rutabaga: Adventure Chef” by Eric Colossal and build their own ramen bowls. The first 10 tweens who register get a free copy of the book to keep!

PARADISE ACRES FIELD TRIP
Tuesday, July 2 • 9 a.m.-1 p.m. • Paradise Acres, Johnson City
Register ages 3-12 at jcpl.org/events for a free ticket to play mini-golf at Paradise Acres, while tickets last. Caregivers can also purchase discounted tickets on-site for mini-golf or other activities.

CONNIE DEEGAN: AWESOME SNAKES
Wednesday, July 3 • 10:30 a.m. • King Commons Natural Adventure Area
Ages 3-12 can experience some fascinating snakes during this meet and greet with Johnson City Parks and Rec naturalist Connie Deegan. She’ll bring a snake along for a closer look, if you’re feeling adventurous!

FAMOUS CHARACTER PARTY
Tuesday, July 9 • 5-7 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Kids of all ages can get to know their favorite characters in real life! Drop in for a meet and greet with photo ops and other fun activities. Characters are from Princess Parties by Mary Katherine.

CREATIVITY LABS
FAMILY CRAFT DAY
Saturday, June 22 • 1-3 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Stretch your imagination in our Creativity Lab! Drop in with the whole family for a jungle-themed craft.

CARDBOARD COSPLAY
Tuesday, July 23 • 1-3 p.m. / 5-7 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Create your own costumes and accessories out of cardboard and upcycled materials. This is a great way to get ready for our LibCon cosplay contest!

ALL AGES GAME NIGHT
Mondays, June 10 / July 8 / August 12 • 6-7:30 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Join us for game night fun! The Library provides board and video games for people to play.

POKÉMON TRADING CARD DAY
Saturdays, June 29 / July 27 / August 31 • 2-3 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Kids of all ages trade Pokémon and other cards.

BUILDING WITH THE LIONS
Saturday, July 13 • 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Drop in to build creations with LEGO blocks, facilitated by the Johnson City Lions Club.

READING PAWS
Mondays, June 3 / July 1 / August 5 • 4-5 p.m. • Saturdays, June 15 / July 20 / August 17 • 11 a.m. • Children’s Library
Ages 5-12 read to a trained listening dog for 15 minutes.

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE BADGE
Tuesday, June 4 • 11 a.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Ages 5-12 take the first step to earning a Daisy, Brownie, or Junior Adventure Badge in trail safety. Boys can join in the fun too! The program is facilitated by the Girl Scouts of America.

BOOK WORMS
Thursdays, June 6 / July 11 • 4 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Ages 5-8 hear a story and do activities that “dig in” to the text.

LITTLE LISTENERS*
Wednesdays and Thursdays • 11 a.m. • Storytime Room
Storytime with longer books, songs, and crafts. Recommended for ages 3-5 years and caregivers.

MUSIC MORNING*
Mondays
June 10 and 24 / July 8 and 22 / 10 and 11 a.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Music and movement class for ages birth-5 years.

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CONNE
**Teen Events**

**Teen Programs**

**TEEN PROGRAMS**

**Teen Events (AGES 12-18)**

**TOME RAIDERS D&D CAMPAIGN**

Wednesday, June 5 and Tuesday, June 18 / Wednesdays, July 10 and 24 • 5 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center

Participate in a bi-weekly tabletop role-playing style campaign throughout the summer. Party members will unite to save an ancient athenaeum from destruction. Pre-registration is required for all sessions by Wednesday, May 29.

**GRAPHIC NOVEL AND COSPLAY PANEL**

Friday, June 21 • 4:30 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center

Dress in your favorite cosplay and join a roundtable discussion about graphic novels and costumed characters! You can also bring your favorite graphic novels and manga to talk about with the group.

**ALIEN ADVENTURES: EXTRATERRESTRIAL ESCAPE ROOM**

Tuesday, July 2 • 5 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center

Band together with friends to make your way out of this retro-themed alien escape room.

**ADVENTURES IN BOOKBINDING**

Monday, July 22 • 5 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center

Create your very own adventure notebook in this hands-on program. You’ll fold, stack, awl, and sew pages together to create a real leather-bound journal.

**LIBCON VI: TOME RAIDERS**

Saturday, July 27 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Don your favorite costume and get your nerdy self to LibCon! (More details on page 12.)

**Teen Book Club**

Teen Book Club meets once a month for ages 12-18 to discuss young adult books, do hands-on activities, and share a love of reading. Book club picks highlight diverse stories and authors in a variety of genres. Whether we’re playing trivia, throwing a steampunk ball, or crafting, Teen Book Club is always fun and compelling. (Plus, the first 10 teens who register get a free copy of the book to keep!)

**June: “The Thief”**

Wednesday, June 12 • 6 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center


In the story you meet Eugenides the thief (Gen for short), a charismatic rogue who claims to be able to steal anything. Released from prison by the king’s scholar, Gen and his crew embark on a quest to steal a legendary treasure. Readers join a perilous quest into a rich fantasy world, complete with horses, sword-fighting, political intrigue, and divine intervention.

“The Thief!” is just the beginning of an adventure that expands across the realms of “The Queen’s Thief” series. You can find Turner’s companion novels at jcpl.org.

Review by Young Adult Library Clerk Claire Harlock

**August Events**

**MURDER MYSTERY**

Wednesday, August 14 • 5 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center

Bring your best sleuthing skills to help solve this murder mystery! Dress in character and act out roles to be the best gumshoe in the game.

**FANFIC WRITING CLINIC**

Saturday, August 17 • 2 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center

Learn about the creative process behind fan-driven writing! You’ll also begin to create, share, and workshop your own fan fiction stories.

**TEEN BOOK CLUB: “DRY”**

Wednesday, August 21 • 6 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center

Discuss “Dry” by Neal Shusterman and participate in water-based survival activities.

Events may be subject to change. Please confirm details at jcpl.org/events.
ADULT EVENTS (AGES 18+)

AUTHOR TALK: DR. ROBERT TURPIN
Saturday, June 1 • 3 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Hear Dr. Robert Turpin talk about his new book, “Black Cyclists: The Race for Inclusion.” It merges race, technology, and mobility to shed light on an overlooked era in cycling history. Dr. Turpin is the Assistant Dean of Arts and Humanities and Associate Professor of History at Lees-McRae College.

CULINARY QUEST: CONQUER YOUR TASTE BUDS
Thursday, June 6 • 6 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Challenge your palate in a thrilling food adventure. Brave participants will enjoy some unusual snacks, such as crickets, worms, and other exotic cuisines.

UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER’S AND DEMENTIA
Friday, June 21 • 3 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
For Alzheimer’s & Brain Awareness Month, learn about Alzheimer’s and dementia from the Alzheimer’s Association Diversity Coordinator Dayisia Wilson. The Alzheimer’s Association is at the forefront of research, reduction, prevention, and care of these brain disorders.

EXTRATERRESTRIAL ESCAPE ROOM
Tuesday, July 2 • 6:30 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Band together with friends to make your way out of this retro-themed alien escape room!

JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY
Saturday, July 13 • 1 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Learn how to write Japanese calligraphy in a workshop led by Miku Kubota. Kubota is a coordinator for the Japan Outreach Initiative at East Tennessee State University. The group promotes awareness and understanding of Japanese culture.

JOHNSON CITY DEATH CAFE
Saturday, July 13 • 2 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Discuss death, dying, and life’s finite nature in an open and compassionate group-directed setting. Death cafes give people a space to think and talk about their mortality, with the intention of living their lives more fully.

SHARK DISCOVERY
Saturday, July 20 • 4 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Prepare for Shark Week by learning about these notorious ocean predators with Dr. Diane Nelson, Professor Emerita of Biological Sciences at ETSU. Dr. Nelson is an internationally recognized marine biologist who has studied giant whale sharks in the Sea of Cortez.

LIBCON: TOME RAIDERS
Saturday, July 27 • 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Don your favorite costume and get your nerdy self to LibCon! (More details on page 12.)

FIBER ARTS GROUP
Fridays, June 14, 28 / July 12, 26 / August 9, 23 • 2:30-4:30 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Drop in with your fiber art supplies on the second and fourth Fridays every month to work on a personal project. You can socialize with and learn from fellow fiber art enthusiasts while you work.

ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES STORYTIME
Thursdays, June 13 / July 11 • 11 a.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Adults with disabilities and their caregivers listen to a story and do a hands-on activity. This inclusive event creates a supportive, enjoyable environment for individuals with disabilities while encouraging creativity and interaction.

TRIVIA WITH BUDDS
Friday, August 16 • 5 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Team up to compete in a food and drink-themed trivia night hosted by Ryan Budds. A local eatery gift card, prizes, and bragging rights are up for grabs! Budds has hosted trivia for Harrison Ford, the Ted Lasso cast, and the Family Guy cast, to name a few.

BOOKED FOR LUNCH: “THE WOMEN”
Wednesday, August 28 • 12 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Join Booked for Lunch, Library Director Julia Turpin’s quarterly book club! Bring your lunch and discuss “The Women” by Kristin Hannah. Free copies are available at the Information Desk, while supplies last.

NATIONAL WELLNESS MONTH
Saturday, August 24 • 4 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
August is National Wellness Month. Hear about Washington County Health Department’s health and wellness services.

CLOTHES MENDING 101
Friday, August 30 • 4 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center
Learn mending techniques for worn and torn fabrics in a hands-on workshop. Participants will gain valuable skills to extend the life of textiles, and take home a repair kit.

Events may be subject to change. Please confirm details at jcpl.org/events.
August Events

Paint a Picture with Words
Tuesday, August 13 • 4 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center

Ages 5-12 and their caregivers hear from Linda Darwish and Jamila Maden, a mother-daughter author duo known as L.J. Madwish. The two teamed up to write the children’s book “Mary and Mike’s Magnanimous Adventures.” Darwish and Maden lead caregiver-child activities that support emerging readers and give you tools to grow your child’s vocabulary, self-expression, and love for reading.

Helping Our Forest Friends
Tuesday, August 20 • 6 p.m. • King Commons Natural Adventure Area

Families learn about critters of Appalachia with animal rehabilitator Vanessa Hawley. Hawley is an educator with Green Valley Wildlife. Her interactive presentation includes how to make your backyard a wildlife sanctuary, as well as a meet and greet with some of our region’s wild critters.

Cooking with Margie Foodie
Preschool
Thursday, August 22 • 11 a.m. • Jones Meeting Center

Ages 3-5 learn how to make (and eat!) biscuits and cinnamon rolls from scratch with cooking instructor Margie Foodie.

School/age
Monday, August 26 • 4 p.m. • Jones Meeting Center

Ages 5-12 learn how to make soft pretzels from scratch with cooking instructor Margie Foodie. Young bakers do everything from making dough, to baking, to eating!

Thank you to Friends of the Library for sponsoring the Scholastic book bucks that kids earn during Summer Reading!

Scholastic Book Fair
Wednesday-Friday, August 7-9 • 3-6 p.m.
Saturday, August 10 • 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Jones Meeting Center

The Scholastic Book Fair is open to the public. Plus, preschool and school age kids who participated in Summer Reading can spend the Scholastic book bucks they earned! All proceeds from the book fair support future children’s programs and services.

Friends of the Library

Friends of the Johnson City Public Library is a group of volunteers dedicated to the Library’s welfare. Through their membership fees and book sales, the Friends help purchase physical and digital library materials, fund programs, and support staff development.

Katie Walser became a Friends member in 2023 as a way of giving back to the Library and our community.

She said, “I grew up in Johnson City, but went away for college and work. I moved back 10 years ago, when my two children were ages 2 and 3. The Library was immediately a way to plug into the community, listen to storytelling, read with dogs, and enjoy the amazing programs our Library offers.

I have many fond memories of Johnson City Public Library, but my favorite is my daughter Savannah’s ‘graduation’ from the Librarian-in-Training program! She absolutely loved it and learned so much, because the wonderful staff at the Library bring it to life each day. The programs they provide are incredible and free of charge.

In the whirlwind of life, I didn’t even know what Friends of the Library was until recent years. Becoming a Friend is such an easy way to give back to our Library and community. I hope everyone will take a few minutes and join today!”

Learn more and join Friends of the Library at jcpl.org/friends.

digital collections

Take your Library along on your summer adventures with our digital collections!

No matter where you are, your library card gives you access to ebooks, audiobooks, and digital magazines through Tennessee R.E.A.D.S. and the Libby app. Download Libby from your app store and easily connect it to your library account to get started!

With hoopla digital, you can borrow ebooks and stream music and movies. Download hoopla from your app store, then use your library card number to begin streaming.

Find more details at jcpl.org/digital-resources.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

across
1. Backpack
2. Compass
3. Puzzle
4. Wild
5. Treasure
9. Waterfall
11. Map
12. Jungle
13. Peak
14. Danger
15. Discover
17. Snakes
18. Voyage
20. Binoculars
21. Trap
23. Companion
24. Explorer
down
1. Stickback
2. Compass
3. Puzzle
4. Wild
5. Treasure
6. Waterfall
7. Map
8. Treasures
9. Expedition
10. Peak
11. Discover
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Learn more and join Friends of the Library at jcpl.org/friends.
This is the very first edition of our Connect magazine! Let us know what you think. What would you like to see in upcoming editions?

jcpl.org/connect-feedback

Summer Fun
THROWBACKS

JOHNSON CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
100 West Millard Street
Johnson City, TN 37604
(423) 434-4450 | jcpl.org

CONNECTING PEOPLE, IDEAS, AND COMMUNITY