

Jay County Public Library
315 N. Ship St.
Portland, IN 47371
(260) 726-7890
www.jaycpl.lib.in.us

Nonprofit
PRSRT STD
US Postage Paid
Portland, IN
Permit No. 36

Return Service Requested

Library Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
8 AM - 8 PM
Wednesday & Friday
8 AM - 5 PM
Saturday
8 AM - 1 PM



Go paperless!

Opt to receive an e-mail
with a link to our newsletter.
Send request to:
jaylibrary315@gmail.com

Thanksgiving Hours

Wednesday, Nov. 25.....8 AM - 5 PM
Thursday, Nov. 26.....CLOSED
Friday, Nov. 27.....CLOSED
Saturday, Nov. 28.....8 AM - 1 PM

CHRISTMAS MILITARY CARE PACKAGE DRIVE

With our community's help, JCPL wants to share Christmas cheer with our local active duty military personnel by sending care packages for the holidays! To make sure we can send a variety of items, we need your help! The library will be hosting a donation drive **November 2-30**. If you'd like to help, please bring items from the list below to the library's front desk. As a community, let's show our Christmas spirit and send our best holiday wishes to our Jay County military personnel!

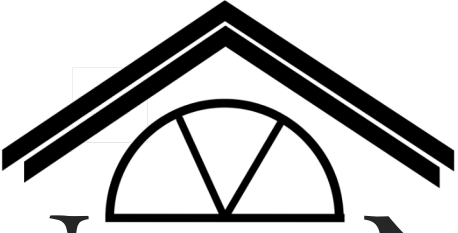
Suggested Donations:

- Beef Jerky / Meat Sticks
- Granola Bars / Protein Bars
- Trail Mix (without chocolate)
- Packages of Dried Fruit
- Packages of Nuts & Seeds
- Individually Wrapped Snacks (crackers, cookies)
- Powdered Drink Mix Packets (Gatorade, hot cocoa, instant coffee)
- Current Magazines & Puzzle Books
- Non-liquid toiletries (razors, toothbrush/paste, floss, Gold Bond powder)
- Money to Help with Postage



- Microwave Popcorn
- Gum & Non-Melting Candy
- Notepads & Pens
- Socks (moisture wicking)
- Card Games
- Baby/Body Wipes

If you know of any active service men or women with ties to Jay County, please share their mailing address with the library. Thank you!



VOLUME 41 ISSUE 9

News Notes

NOVEMBER 2026



**WINTERFEST FESTIVAL OF TREES-
"I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS"**



The Jay County Public Library invites our community to the Festival of Trees presented by the Jay County Chamber of Commerce! The Festival of Trees is a joyful and free display of Christmas trees decorated by Jay County nonprofits, service organizations, clubs, and municipalities to celebrate the holiday season together. A special kick-off celebration will be held on **Monday, November 30 from 5-7 p.m.** for the community! Everyone is welcome to come stroll through the library and enjoy viewing the beautifully decorated trees in the main areas.

This year's Festival of Trees will **honor the brave men and women who serve our country** and those who have sacrificed time away from home to protect our freedom! A Christmas story walk featuring the book *Christmas from Heaven* will coincide with the Christmas tree viewing, and families can enjoy reading a true, heartfelt Christmas story set during the time of the Berlin airlift. Families will also have a chance to meet local veterans, as well!

All ages (kids, teens, and adults) are invited to join us in the Community Room during that time to make homemade gifts, cards, and other items to put into Christmas care packages that will be sent to active duty service men and women with ties to Jay County. Please come help us spread some Christmas cheer to our own military personnel!

Begin the magic of the Christmas season with a visit to the library, and support our local community Christmas tree display. **No sign up is required for this event.** If you can't make it on November 30, the trees will be available for viewing from **November 30 – December 30**. Come to JCPL during normal service hours and see a magical winter wonderland during Winterfest and throughout the holidays. The space will sparkle with beautifully decorated trees, each one representing the heart and spirit of our community. Stroll through and admire the displays and enjoy the holiday cheer and vote for your favorites. Tree voting will be held **November 30 – December 5!**

A special thank you to **WinterFest's Title Sponsor — First Bank of Berne** for supporting this magical community tradition!

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PUBLIC WORKS OF ART PROJECT (PWAP) PAINTING

Come to the library to see the Public Works of Art Project (PWAP) painting "Old Man Reading to Children" which will be on display in the month of November. The painting was done by **Dunkirk resident Helen Baird** for the children's room of the **Portland Public Library in 1934**. The PWAP was the first of four New Deal work-relief arts programs, established under the Department of the Treasury during the time of the Great Depression in the United States, commissioning unemployed artists to create sculptures, paintings, graphic design and murals for public buildings that depicted "optimistic visions of America during a time of economic desperation."



ONGOING PROGRAMS:

JCPL Book Club:

Monday, November 16, 7 PM

The JCPL Book Club meets on the **third Monday of every month at 7 p.m.** This month we'll be reading *The Madness of John Terrell: Revenge and Insanity on Trial in the Heartland* by Stephen Terrell. Anyone who loves to read may join!

Friends of JCPL:

Tuesday, November 17, 6 PM

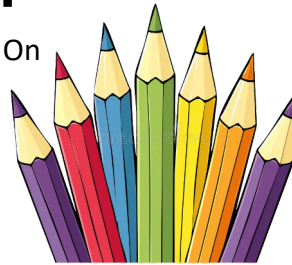
Lawyers in Libraries:

Thursday, November 19, 10 AM-12 PM

Lawyers in Libraries will be held on **Thursday, November 19, this month, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon**. Participants will be able to speak with an attorney through a video conferencing system about topics such as divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates, or immigration. The service is free, confidential, and will be held at the library on laptops provided by the library. **Please sign up in advance at the library; spots are limited.**

"KEEP CALM & COLOR ON" FOR ADULTS!

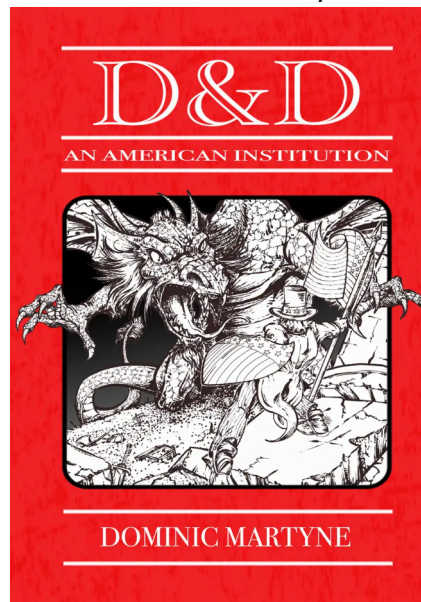
Need a break from holiday stress? On **Saturday, November 28**, come grab a snack and enjoy a peaceful time of adult coloring (or bring in your own crafting project) in a restful setting. Coloring pages and coloring supplies will be provided or feel free to bring your own. **Drop in anytime from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.**



LOCAL AUTHOR TALK WITH DOMINIC MARTYNE

What do 18th century warfare, creative collaborative storytelling, and tabletop gaming have to do with each other? Join us on **Tuesday, November 3, at 6 p.m.** for an author talk with Jay County resident Dominic Martyne to find out. Dominic will be talking about his book, *D&D: An American Institution*. This work goes far deeper than a discussion of the tabletop game *Dungeons and Dragons* – it is a behind the scenes view of the genesis of the game, a glimpse into 1800's military history, a snapshot of the nation's post World War II wargaming trend, and follows the evolution of the game through five decades from its inception in 1974. Additionally, it also covers the subsequent "battle" for the battlefield game, and the controversy surrounding the creators of the game. While this book is the authoritative tome on the history of *Dungeons and Dragons*, this is a discussion that will appeal to gamers, lovers of military history, and cultural historians alike.

Registration is recommended but not required, and the first three registrants will receive a copy of Dominic's book at the program. Please call or visit the library to reserve your seat!



FAMILY STORY TIME

Family Story Time will be held on both **Monday and Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.** in the Community Room. Join us for stories, songs, and activities for children ages preschool and younger with their caregivers **now through November 17**. **Please note:** story time content will be the same for both days, but each week will have a different theme.
November 2 & 3 – Puppies (Come see a therapy dog!)
November 9 & 10 – Dinosaurs
November 16 & 17 – Gratitude/Thanksgiving
Save the date for Christmas story times on December 7 & 8 @ 10:00 a.m.

FESTIVAL OF TREES SIGN-UP

If you are a **nonprofit** and are interested in setting up a tree at the library, please scan the QR code or contact the library/Jay County Chamber of Commerce for more information.



HAPPY RETIREMENT!

Longtime JCPL staff member, Robin Hempstead, retired at the end of October. Robin served JCPL since 2012 when she came on staff in a part-time role. Since moving to full-time in 2016, Robin has been a regular face on our bookmobile service. She also had a great impact for our homebound patrons, delivering them books once a month. Thank you for your service, Robin, and we hope you enjoy the retirement life!



MOTHER GOOSE

Mother Goose will be flying back to the library **once a month on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m.** This month, join her in the Community Room on **Thursday, November 12**, for stories, rhymes, and movement. **If Jay Schools are not in session, Mother Goose will not be held.**



FORT WAYNE BALLET NUTCRACKER INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE



Join us as Fort Wayne Ballet brings the magic of Nutcracker to the Jay County Public Library on **Thursday, November 12 @ 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.** This program will include a performance from the *Nutcracker Land of Sweets*, a creative movement class, a hands-on craft and, of course, reading! These engaging programs introduce young audiences to the art of dance while encouraging creativity, imagination and movement. **Space is limited and registration is required.** Please visit or call the library to sign up today!



FARM-TO-TABLE THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR KIDS!

Celebrate Thanksgiving at the library with the Jay County Farm Bureau, Inc.! Preschool and elementary kids are invited to join us for a hands-on, educational Thanksgiving experience. Children will get to eat turkey roast and mashed potatoes, make their own cranberry salad, bake a crescent roll, shake and make butter, and make their own pumpkin pie dessert. Along the way, kids will learn about where their Thanksgiving dinner food comes from. Kids will rotate between stations, and we'll all sit down at the end to eat our Thanksgiving dinner together. Kids will also have an opportunity to create blessing bags for our local Jayland Homeless Shelter. Families may sign up for either of two dinners on **Monday, November 23 at 4:00-5:15 pm. or 6:15-7:30 p.m.** Due to space limitations, families may sign up only one adult per child, with a maximum of two adults per family. Call or visit the library to sign up!

