

LIBRARY LINE



QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2025

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50 YEARS OF FRIENDS!

The Friends of the Irving Public Library, steadfast champions of the library system, are celebrating 50 years of dedicated service in 2025. Over the decades, the Friends have supported key programs such as the NEA Big Read, the Summer Reading Challenge and the North Texas Teen Book Festival—now in its 12th year.

They've also made a lasting impact on early literacy by helping to fund AWE Learning computers at every library location, ensuring free access to educational software for all children, even those without library cards. Additional efforts include support for the long-running Teachers and Friends Book Sale, which provides educators with affordable books for their classrooms.

The roots of the organization date back to Sept. 5, 1961, when a group of residents formed the Irving Municipal

Library Association to support the City of Irving's first public library, which opened in February 1962. In 1966, the group became the Friends of the Irving Library, maintaining its mission to raise funds for books and materials. The organization officially reorganized as the Friends of the Irving Public Library on Feb. 3, 1975, and has continued to promote library programs and raise money for critical needs ever since.

In recognition of their decades of service, the Irving City Council proclaimed May 1 as Friends of the Irving Public Library Day during a Thursday night meeting. The proclamation marks the start of a summer of celebration, with Friends members participating in Summer Reading Challenge kickoffs and other events to raise awareness of the group's anniversary and continued support of library services throughout the city.

Friends of Irving Public Library - Warehouse, 3000 Rock Island Road
Email: friends@friendsofirvinglibrary.com | Phone: (972) 721-2628



FRIENDS NEWS

FRIENDS
OF THE
IRVING
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

SUMMER Book Sale June 6-8

3000 ROCK ISLAND ROAD

3 to 7 p.m.,
Friday, June 6

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Saturday, June 7

1 to 4 p.m.,
Sunday, June 8

Members Only Sales

1 TO 3 P.M.

AUG. 7, SEPT. 3

3000 ROCK ISLAND ROAD

BACK TO SCHOOL BOOK SALE

9 A.M. TO 2 P.M., AUG. 2

3000 ROCK ISLAND ROAD

LIBRARY GIVING DAY RESULTS

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the first-ever North Texas Library Giving Day! With the Friends' support, more than \$3,400 was raised for the North Texas Teen Book Festival—surpassing the Friends' goal thanks to the generosity of 30 incredible donors.

Though the Giving Day campaign started quietly, momentum built quickly—and when it rains, it pours! Every dollar raised by the Friends helps the library continue to inspire and connect teen readers with the authors and stories they love.

Missed the chance to give? Don't worry! The Friends of the Irving Public Library will be back to participate in the 2025 North Texas Giving Day on Sept. 18, with giving open from 6 a.m. to midnight. Mark those calendars and join hundreds of organizations in supporting the causes that matter most to Irving's community.



FRIENDS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

GAIL O'BANNON



Gail O'Bannon, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer for the Dallas Mavericks, is a proud member of the Friends of the Irving Public Library. An independently published author, founder of [Pound Cake Publishing](#) and avid collector of coffee table books, she surely finds treasures at the Friends' monthly book sales. Her passion for libraries runs deep—she's even said she would have loved to be a librarian. Members like Gail make a lasting impact on the library and its mission! [Learn more!](#)

PROGRAM NEWS

[Looking for more events or event details? Check out the Beyond the Stacks newsletter!](#)



SUMMER READING IS HERE!

Brilliant days are ahead with the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge “Color Our World” for babies, children and teens. Adults are encouraged to earn prizes for participating in the ongoing yearlong challenge, Fully Booked. From June 1 through July 31, Irving Public Library transforms into a vibrant hub of creativity, imagination, and hands-on fun. Families can enjoy captivating stories, energetic performers, exciting animal encounters, special visits from first responders and a kaleidoscope of opportunities for kids to explore and express their creativity! Mark your calendars for these standout events for kids:

The Colorful World of Mother Nature
2:30 p.m., June 5 | South

Karate Dance Party
2:30 p.m., June 11 | Valley Ranch

SaulPaul: Musician with a Message
2:30 p.m., June 17 | West

Friday Night Library:
Dog Man Drive-In Movie
7 p.m., Friday, June 20 | South

James Wand
Secret Agent Magic Show
2:30 p.m., June 25 | Valley Ranch

Hooray for the U.S.A.
Puppet Show
2:30 p.m., July 2 | Valley Ranch

Rock ‘n Jump Rope Warrior
11 a.m., July 15 | West

Creature Teacher
2:30 p.m., July 16 | Valley Ranch

Mad Science Show
2:30 p.m., July 31 | South

Register for the reading challenges for babies, children and teens beginning May 30 by visiting IrvingLibrary.READSsquared.com Check out the full line-up of programs on the [library's calendar](#).

Community Art Supply Swap

Swap Meet
3 to 5:30 p.m., June 7
South Irving Library



What is the Community Art Swap?

Local artists and craft enthusiasts are invited to refresh their art supplies or find new inspiration at the upcoming Community Art Supply Swap, hosted at the South Irving Library. This community-driven event encourages the exchange of gently used or new art materials, promoting sustainability and creativity.

How It Works

In preparation for the swap, throughout May the community dropped off art supplies at the library locations during normal business hours. Contributions will be organized for the main event, which takes place on Saturday, June 7, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the South Irving Library. Attendees will have the chance to browse a diverse selection of materials and find their next creative treasure. Call (72) 721-2606 for more details.

SERVICES NEWS

IT'S A WRAP!

The long-awaited Irving Library Outreach Van (I.L.O.V.) will soon be ready to roll into community events across Irving this summer!

Friends of the Library may remember the fundraising efforts that kicked off in summer 2021 to help bring this exciting project to life. With additional support from grants and partnerships with vendors, progress moved forward—even as supply chain issues caused unexpected delays. Thanks to the perseverance of the Library and Friends, the vision is now a reality!



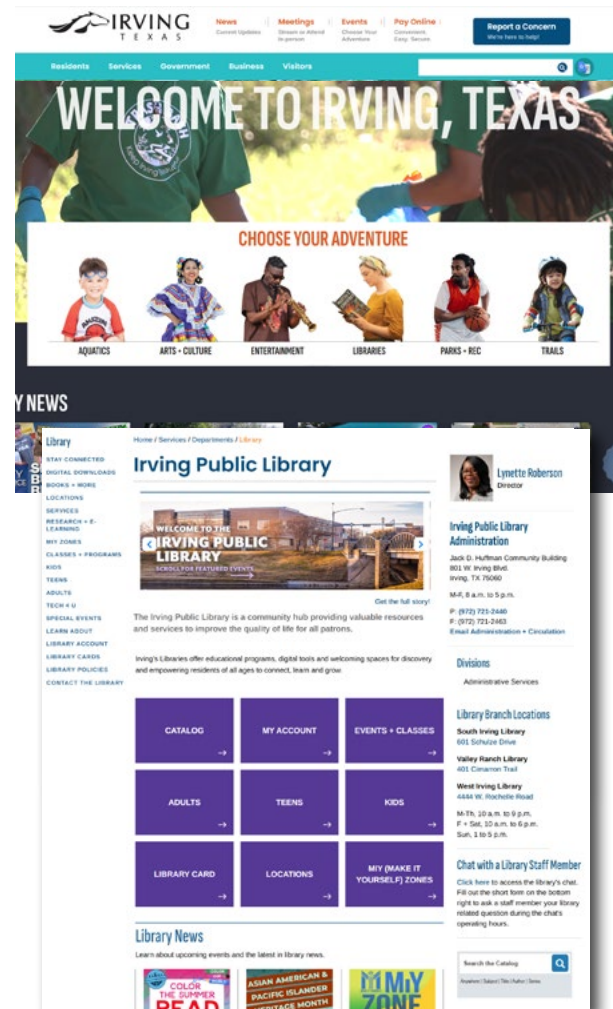
The Library's Communications Team created the vibrant vehicle wrap, which is scheduled for installation in early June. The cheerful design stars Dewey the Dragon—an informal library mascot known for promoting good book care through materials like the Be Gentle to Your Rental bookmark. With its eye-catching look and mission-focused features, I.L.O.V. is ready to take library card sign-ups, services and programs directly to the community in style.

NEW PLACE TO CALL HOME

Beginning in June, the City of Irving and all its departments will launch a brand-new website! Bookmark IrvingTX.gov/Library and get ready for an upgraded online experience featuring embedded web forms, collapsible service menus and expanded access to information at users' fingertips.

Many residents who regularly use the [library's catalog](#) to browse materials or manage their account may not realize that the Library maintains a separate website. While the catalog itself will remain unchanged, visitors are encouraged to explore the redesigned site to discover a wealth of information about library services, upcoming events, news, helpful tips and community resources.

The new website was designed with mobile users in mind and features a responsive layout for easy browsing on any device. In May, selected Irving residents participated in user testing, providing valuable feedback that helped city departments refine the site ahead of the official launch. The project began in spring 2024 with the selection of vendor JesseJames Creative and represents a major step forward in digital accessibility and community engagement.



UPCOMING LIBRARY CLOSURES

July 3 - All libraries close at 6 p.m.

July 4 - Independence Day
All locations will be closed.

