LIBRARY LINE

FRIENDS OF THE IRVING PUBLIC LIBRARY

QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTER



In this edition

- NEA Big Read Author Visit
- North Texas Giving Update
- Upcoming Book Sales
- Sensory Sensitive Storytimes
- Meet the Interim Director!

Fall 2026 Volume 15 Issue 4

PARTY IN THE USA!

The Friends of the Irving Public Library have partnered with Irving Public Library to bring the community together for NEA Big Read – Irving, a community-wide celebration of America's 250th anniversary. This year's featured title is 1776 by Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough, which chronicles the pivotal first year of the American Revolution.

Friends members braved the heat to engage with the public during the series kickoff, an Americana Picnic at the Cimarron Park Recreation Center. Members distributed books and shared information about the Friends' initiatives.

The series continues with America's Birthday Bash from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at the J.D. Huffman Community Building, 801 W. Irving Blvd.

The event will feature an illustrated-on-the-fly presentation with authors Stuart Gibbs and Nathan Hale, offering attendees a creative and engaging literary experience. Guests also can enjoy community art displays, birthday cupcakes, a performance by the Irving High School choir and orchestra, a hot beverage cart, free museum tours and more. The first 100 children to arrive will receive a free copy of either "One Dead Spy" by Nathan Hale or "Spy School Revolution" by

(continued on Program News page.)



Freedom 250

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS arts.gov

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest. Visit IrvingTX.gov/NEA-Big-Read for more information.

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

Facebook

Friends' Website

FRIENDS NEWS

NEW GIVING DAY RECORD

More than $8,000 was contributed to the Friends of the Irving Library's North Texas Giving Day (NTGD) Campaign, helping Irving Public Library expand opportunities for residents to explore creative hobbies and hands-on projects through the library's MiY Zones.

From digitizing photographs and crafting with wood and leather to designing custom T-shirts and creating handmade gifts, library makerspaces offer access to equipment and tools that may be too costly for many households to purchase on their own.

These resources expand the library's value by giving visitors opportunities to learn new skills, explore their creativity and bring ideas to life.

NATIONAL FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES WEEK CELEBRATION!



National Friends of Libraries Week, Oct. 18–24, recognized the dedicated groups that support libraries through fundraising, advocacy and community engagement.

The Friends of the Irving Library were celebrated for their ongoing contributions to library programs and services. The recognition continued Thursday, Oct. 29, when Mayor Al Zapanta presented the Friends with a proclamation at the City Council meeting.

Members' Book Sales

at 3000 Rock Island Road

1 to 3 p.m. Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.









To learn more about upcoming classes and how to use the equipment, visit the library's MiY Zone website.



THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE!

Make holiday shopping a little easier while supporting the Irving Library! The Friends of the Irving Public Library Book Sales offer great deals on gently used books and puzzles, with proceeds helping fund additional programs and enhancements throughout the library system.

Friends members get early access on Wednesday, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2 from 1 to 3 p.m. With gently used books in excellent condition and a large selection of puzzles, shoppers can find thoughtful gifts without stretching their holiday budgets.

A public book sale also takes place Saturday, Nov. 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Memberships are not required to attend public sales. However, Friends' memberships make great gift for that someone who has everything and loves to collect books.

Fill a shopping bag with affordable finds, check a few gifts off the list and feel good knowing every purchase supports the library.

PROGRAM NEWS

Looking for more events or event details? Check out the Beyond the Stacks newsletter!

(continued from page 1)

Stuart Gibbs, while supplies last.

Throughout the series, adult residents are encouraged to pick up a free copy of "1776," while supplies last, at participating Irving libraries and community partners. NEA Big Read – Irving concludes Nov. 14.

For more information about NEA Big Read – Irving and upcoming programs, visit IrvingTX.gov/NEA-Big-Read for more details and events.

SENSORY SENSITIVE STORYTIME OPEN HOUSE

Nov. 30 | 3:30 to 5 p.m. | South Irving Library
Ages 3-5 and caregivers



South Irving Library invites families with children ages 3 to 5 to attend its Sensory Sensitive Storytime Open House, an opportunity to explore a thoughtfully designed storytime space and discover how small adjustments can create a more comfortable library experience for children with different sensory needs.

South Irving Library offers in-person Sensory Sensitive Storytime on the first Monday of each month, except when holidays affect the schedule. Registration is required and is available at IrvingTX.gov/Sensory-Storytime-Form.



NEA BIG READ EVENTS

Edible Education: Johnnycakes | Adults
6:30 p.m., Nov. 5 | West Library
Learn to make this colonial dish using the library's mobile kitchen.

America's Birthday Bash
2 to 4 p.m., Nov. 7 | Jack D. Huffman Community Building, 801 W. Irving Blvd.

Color Me Calm | Adults
7 p.m., Nov. 9 | Valley Ranch Library

"1776" Book Discussion
6 p.m., Nov. 11 | South Library

Perspecitves from Two Patriots
10 a.m., Nov. 14 | West Library
Sons of the American Revolution members will present about Privateer Jonathan Haraden and exhibit replicas of George Washington's swords.

COMING SOON

Winterfest



Have a Merry Winterfest! There's something fun for everybody during Irving Public Library's Winterfest starting this December with events lasting into January. Make sure to check LibCal and save the dates as they become available!

HOLIDAY PHOTOS!



Add a personal touch to holiday greetings this year with a little magic from South Irving Library. From Nov. 2 to Dec. 11, schedule a photo shoot during MiY Zone hours and create a personalized card.

SERVICES NEWS



UPCOMING LIBRARY CLOSURES

Nov. 26-27 closed
(All locations to close at 5 p.m., Nov. 25)
Dec. 5, South Library to close at 5 p.m.
Dec. 24-25 closed
(All locations to close at 5 p.m., Dec. 23)
Jan. 1, 2027 closed
(All locations to close at 5 p.m., Dec. 31)
South Irving Library Carpeting Closure
January/February 2027. Details coming soon.

MEET GLENIECE

Welcome to Gleniece Robinson, Irving Public Library's new Interim Director!

Gleniece served as Fort Worth Public Library Director for 18 years, from 1999 to 2017, and went on to serve as Fort Worth's Director of Education Strategies until 2020.

During her time leading the Fort Worth Public Library, she guided that system through significant modernization, including its first master plan and the construction of three new branch libraries funded through successive bond elections. Her leadership was recognized when Fort Worth Business Press named her one of its "Great Women of Texas" in 2016. We are fortunate to have someone with her experience and calm, capable leadership working alongside the Friends at this time. Additional information related to Ms. Robinson's career can be found here. Ms. Robinson started her role as Interim Director for Irving Library on Sept. 1.

WEST LIBRARY BECOMES A FAMILY PLACE



West Irving Library is now a Family Place Library, expanding opportunities for young children and their caregivers to learn, play and connect through early childhood programming and family resources. The Family Place Library initiative builds on West Irving Library's existing children's programs and Discover With Me workshops, by creating a more welcoming, interactive environment where families can explore early learning together while providing addtional training resources for Irving Library staff.

Irving Public Library is proud to have two Family Place-designated libraries. West Library joins South Irving Library, which earned the designation in 2016. Established in 1998, the Family Place initiative has expanded to more than 500 libraries in 32 states, training more than 1,200 librarians to support early childhood development, parent and community engagement and lifelong learning beginning at birth.