Phoenix Public Library

eNEWSLETTER

JULY 2026 | Volume 13 Issue 7

Welcome to this month's edition of Phoenix Public Library's e-newsletter!

At Phoenix Public Library, ***we empower our community with resources and opportunities to inspire and enrich lives***. Each month, we share stories, programs, and updates that reflect our core values of **adaptability, inclusion, integrity, kindness,** and **lifelong learning**. We're glad you're here—let's explore what's happening this month at the library.

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Helpful Links

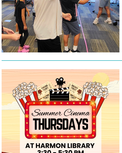
- Find Our Website
- Library Locations & Hours
- Event Calendar
- Find Our Collections
- Photo Gallery Album
- Frames Wall of Fame
- Honeycomb Point Lists
- Manifest Knowledge
- Author Talks: Livestream Events
- Renew Your Library Card and Get "Hooked"
- FAQs
- Join Our Public Library Foundation
- Friends of the Phoenix Public Library

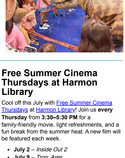
Summer Reading Roars Ahead!

Phoenix Public Library's Summer Reading Game is roaring ahead as we dig into this year's theme, *Unearth a Story!* We are especially excited that overall registrations are up 9% over last year, with more than **22,000** people registered as of June 19. This strong start reflects the incredible enthusiasm of our community and the hard work of library staff.

Keep unearthing great stories, log your points, and stop by your local Phoenix Public Library to claim your prizes. And don't forget — the deadline to log your reading minutes is **July 20**.

Haven't joined the adventure yet? There's still plenty of time. Sign up and discover more Summer Reading events and activities here.





Free Summer Cinema Thursdays at Harmon Library

Cool off this July with Free Summer Cinema Thursdays at Harmon Library! Join us **every Thursday** from **3:30–5:30 PM** for a family-friendly movie, light refreshments, and a fun break from the summer heat. A new film will be featured each week.

- **July 2** – *Inside Out 2*
- **July 9** – *Trion: Ares*
- **July 16** – *Zootopia 2*
- **July 23** – *The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants*
- **July 30** – *Anaconda*

Bring your friends, family, and your love of movies. No registration required!

Hot Talks With Local Authors: July Sessions

Stay cool this summer with **Hot Talks With Local Authors**, our virtual lunchtime series featuring conversations with Arizona writers. Held **online** from **noon to 1 p.m.**, each session offers readers the chance to discover new books, meet local authors, and explore engaging themes throughout the season.

July brings a two-part series focused on **Romantic Entanglements**.

- **July 11 – Romantic Entanglements, Part 1**: Join us for a lively lunchtime chat with authors **Lynn Campbell** (*Flight Plan*) and **Honi Olmedo** (*The Paris We Play*) as they discuss love, connection, and the stories that tie us together.
- **July 25 – Romantic Entanglements, Part 2**: Continue the conversation with authors **Mimi Francis** (*Our Two-Week, One-Night Stand*) and **Timothy Kyle** (*The Tree House*) as they share insights into crafting heartfelt and relatable romance.

Be sure to **register** and join the conversation during these refreshing midday literary escapes.

Explore Arizona's History: Arizona Room Tour on July 25

Explore Arizona's history with a guided tour of the Arizona Room at Burton Barr Central Library. Discover unique materials including historic maps, photographs, postcards, yearbooks, music, newspapers, and highlights like letters from the James McClintock Collection.

The tour also introduces the **Arizona Room for All** project, an initiative that improves accessibility with new furniture, low-vision aids, and updated displays. Learn more and register to attend.

Honoring 250 Years of America at Phoenix Public Library

Phoenix Public Library is joining the nation in commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States with a series of free programs and activities designed to spark learning, civic engagement, and community connection.

As part of the nationwide America 250 celebration, library locations across Phoenix will host musical performances, educational presentations, hands-on crafts, scavenger hunts, discussions, and interactive experiences that explore our country's history and the stories we share.

Join us throughout the year as we reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and look toward the future together.

College Depot July Programs

College Depot at Phoenix Public Library offers a variety of free, in-person programs designed to help teens and students take the next step toward college, careers, and skilled trades. Whether you're exploring hands-on career pathways, looking for ways to pay for school, or ready to apply for scholarships with expert support, these July programs offer practical guidance, insider tips, and one-on-one help to set you up for success.

Discover Something New with July's Author Talks

Take your reading to the next level with the Library Speakers Consortium's free, live virtual author talks, featuring bestselling writers and thought leaders, all from the comfort of home. Learn more and register!

On **July 14**, dive into the twists and turns of small-town suspense with **bestselling author Karin Slaughter** as she discusses her North Falls series, including We Are All Guilty Here and her upcoming sequel, The Secrets We Hide. Learn more and register to attend.

On **July 16**, explore the emotional cost of the American Dream with **celebrated author Reyna Grande** as she shares insights from her new memoir, Migrant Heart: Essays About Things I Can't Forget, and reflects on healing through storytelling. Learn more and register to attend.

On **July 28**, discover the science of friendship with **bestselling author Dr. Marisa Franco**, whose book Platonic unpacks attachment styles and how they shape the relationships we build and keep throughout our lives. Learn more and register to attend.

Book Look: New & Notable Picks

Discover standout titles curated by our Collection Services team—these popular picks are in high demand, so be sure to place a hold today!

MAKE BELIEVE

Make Believe: On Telling Stories to Children by Mac Barnett "Slim yet soaring, Barnett's footnoted, accessible style and passionate viewpoint will speak to anyone who read as a child or has read to a child."—*Booklist*

Earth 7 by Deb Olin Unferth "Unferth shines in her ability to craft relatable characters in extraordinary circumstances... Earth 7 explores deep ontological questions about the nature of life. This is precious."—*Publishers Weekly*

Theft of the Ruby Lotus by Sayantani DasGupta "A delightful mystery that keeps the guessing until the final page. With a twisty plot, big laughs, and an unforgettable narrator, it's a winner in every sense."—*James Ponti, New York Times Bestselling Author*

The Plunge by Lisa Ralicek "Playwright Ralicek debuts a seductive literary thriller. The novel is propulsive, and Ralicek keeps the reader questioning all the characters' true motivations."—*Publishers Weekly*

Sherlock Roach and the Case of the Crunchy Crouths by Joe McGee "A delightfully subtropical twist on a classic mystery series."—School Library Journal

Villa Coco by Andrew Sean Greer "A charming love letter to Italy. Greer breathes life into the Baronessa and her world, fashioning the novel into a box of treasures. This lighter and airier Pulitzer-winner is great fun."—*Publishers Weekly*

Enhanced Fireworks Restrictions Began on June 20

Phoenix has updated its fireworks regulations. As of **June 20, 2026**, the use of all fireworks on City property is banned, as well as within one mile of mountain preserves, and near desert or regional parks when under Stage 1 restrictions. Due to elevated fire danger, the City of Phoenix has implemented Stage 1 Fire Restrictions.

Under these restrictions, the use of consumer fireworks is prohibited within one mile of mountain preserves, desert parks, regional parks, conservation areas, national forests, and wilderness areas. The only exception is if the Phoenix Fire Department issues a permit.

Search your address and view the map at Phoenix.gov/CelebrateSafely.

Saturday, July 4: In observance of Independence Day, all Phoenix Public Library locations except Cholla Library will be closed. Cholla Library is offering extended full-service library hours as part of the City of Phoenix's Heat Relief efforts and will be open on Independence Day from noon – 9 p.m. All Phoenix Public Library book drops, and digital reference remain available. Visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org for more details.

Thanks for reading!

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