Phoenix Public Library

# eNEWSLETTER

**September 2026 | Volume 13 Issue 9**

**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 and updates that reflect our core values of **adaptability, inclusion, integrity, kindness**, and **making a difference**.
We're glad you're here—let's explore what's happening this month!

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## Upcoming Events


- August 31 | October 2 – [Name Our New Library](#)
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- September 14 | [Read Better Be Better Series](#)
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- October 15 – [Poetry Reading and Other Poems by José Emilio Pacheco at Burton Barr Central Library](#)


## Helpful Links


- [Visit Our Website](#)
- [Event Locations & Hours](#)
- [Get a Library Card](#)
- [Find the Bookmobile](#)
- [Explore Our Catalog](#)
- [Browse Pre-K Library](#)
- [Browse Digital Kits](#)
- [Interlibrary Loan](#)
- [Author Talks Livestream](#)
- [Request a Speaker](#)
- [Renew Your Library Card, Pay Your Fines](#)
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Exciting news! Phoenix Public Library invites you to help name our coming soon library at Estrella Civic Space! Continuing our tradition of naming library locations after flora native to the Arizona desert, the new library name will celebrate the vibrant local ecosystem and inspire the soon-to-be-launched design phase.

Community members are invited to choose from five options: **Cliffrose, Creosote, Jojoba, Manzanita,** and **Sonita**. Each name echoes the beauty and diversity of our desert surroundings. Whichever name is selected, we can choose a frame that will reflect how our libraries help shape futures, provide a welcoming space for all and become a lasting part of Phoenix history.

Voting is open August 31 through October 2, 2026, so don't miss your chance to be part of this exciting moment! Visit GoPHX.org/CastYourVote to learn more about the five plant options and learn more about the campaign. Together, let's give our new library a name as unique and welcoming as our community!

## September is Library Card Sign-Up Month!




Starting **September 1**, Phoenix Public Library joins libraries across Maricopa County in celebrating the power of a library card. We look to you, our community, to help us share all the amazing things your card gets you access to.

Your library card is more than just books. From digital resources to free passes, events and hands-on programming, Phoenix Public Library is your community's "front door" with something for everyone.

Invite a friend, make a visit to your local library, get a library card for everyone in the household. Stop by any of our 17 locations to sign up for a card or get started online with an eCard at phoenixpubliclibrary.org.

Interested in a classroom or event visit from Phoenix Public Library outreach staff? Make your request here.




## NEA Big Read Kick-Off: Celebrating Emily Dickinson

The NEA Big Read, an initiative designed to foster community through collective engagement in reading, dialogue, and creative exploration, will begin its 2026–27 season with a celebration of the Essential Emily Dickinson. The event will feature opening remarks by Laura Tetrich, Executive Director of the Arizona Americas250 Commission, and pop-up talks by Dr. Jennifer Ann Ashton and Dr. Jessica Cox. Guests will also be able to engage in hands-on poetry activities, seed planting, receive complimentary books, enjoy snacks, and benefit from additional giveaways. Open to individuals of all ages, this event aims to highlight Dickinson's enduring relevance and encourage meaningful connections through literary appreciation and creativity.

NEA Big Read Kick-Off Event
September 26, 2026
10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Burton Barr Central Library

## Sesame Street & the Great Elephant Adventure




Come join us for a free, entertaining family event where you can catch an exclusive preview of PBS Nature: Sesame & The Great Elephant Adventure! Explore wildlife wonders with AZ Game & Fish, enjoy storytime courtesy of South Mountain Community Library, participate in creative make-and-take activities, and get your picture taken with Call the Collector from PBS KIDS!

This unique *Sesame Street* and *Nature* crossover special takes Elmo, Abby, and Nina on an unforgettable safari across Africa. After adopting an orphaned elephant online, their journey leads them to a Kenyan sanctuary to meet the young elephant and her caretakers, followed by thrilling encounters with some of Africa's legendary wildlife in the untamed bush.

Arizona PBS Presents: Sesame Street & the Great Elephant Adventure
September 26, 2026
10 a.m.–noon
South Mountain Community Library

## Annual Harmon Library Halloween Costume Drive




Harmon Library is accepting new and gently used costumes or accessories for children ages 0–17 between **September 15** and **October 15**. Your donations help make this beloved tradition possible for the children of Central City South. Visit Harmon Library to drop donations off anytime at the Welcome Desk. For more information call **602-262-4636**.

## Monarch Month at Phoenix Public Library




Did you know Phoenix joined the Mayor's Monarch Pledge in 2021 to help protect monarch butterflies and their incredible 3,000-mile migration? Throughout September, Phoenix Public Library is honoring Monarch butterflies with a variety of fun and educational programs for all ages.

From butterfly-themed and bilingual storytimes, to special events like *Planting to Attract Monarchs* and *Monarch Tagging 101*, there's something for everyone. Plus, during Monarch Week, there's something for everyone to enjoy while learning about these beautiful pollinators. Explore Monarch Butterfly themed Staff Picks reading recommendations and discover all Monarch themed programs at Phoenix Public Library's Monarch Month.

## Hispanic Heritage Month




Communities thrive when they include diverse voices and celebrate the richness of their cultures. Phoenix Public Library recognizes Hispanic and Latinx history and heritage in the U.S. and Latin America for Hispanic Heritage Month. Learn more about featured Phoenix Public Library Hispanic Heritage Month programs below and be sure to visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org in mid-September for books, films, and resources celebrating these cultures.

**Loteria - Library Edition**
Feel the rush of anticipation with this special Library edition of Loteria. Grab your cards and join the action!

September 15, 2026
5:30–6:30 p.m.
South Mountain Community Library

**Hispanic Heritage Week**
Celebrate Hispanic Heritage with Ocotillo Library's Hispanic Heritage Week by creating Arte en Hojalata, or sing, dance and move in Zumba with Ocotillo Library. Throughout the program, and teens will experience Hispanic Heritage with a cultural exploration of Hispanic themed activities.

September 22–25, 2026
Ocotillo Library

**Presence and Other Poems by José Emilio Pacheco**
Spanish singer and composer Natalia Lorena Cancio Pacheco's poetry by singing his poems, accompanied by decipherer Rina Montoya. Program includes a screening of "Presencia Eterna, José Emilio Pacheco (1939-2014)", created by Diagrama Producciones SL as an introduction to the concert.

October 11, 2026
2–3:30 p.m.
Burton Barr Central Library - College Depot Auditorium

## Call for Nichos: Dia de los Muertos 2026




Phoenix Public Library invites the community to take part in our Día de los Muertos celebration by creating and submitting a nicho box—a small, decorated display box honoring loved ones who have passed. Join us in honoring this tradition with art, memory, and community. Learn more here.

- Nichos can be made from cigar boxes, mint tins, shoe boxes, or other small containers.
- Nichos materials available September 1 at the 2nd floor Service Desk at Burton Barr Central Library while supplies last.
- Nichos can be dropped off at the Service desk on the **2nd floor** at Burton Barr Central Library **September 20-27**.
- All submissions will be displayed at Burton Barr Central Library, 2nd floor from October 6–November 6, 2026.

## PHXWorks Fall Job Fair

Seeking a job or exploring new opportunities? Join our event featuring employers from across the state, where you can learn about their organizations and potential hiring interview on site. Bring your resume and ID, dress professionally, and connect with employers like AHCCCS, Skill Up Arizona, Phoenix Indian Center, and others.

Fall Job Fair
September 17, 2026
4–5:30 p.m.
Ocotillo Library and Workforce Literacy Center

## Unlock Your Child's Reading Potential with Read Better Be Better!




Are you searching for a proven way to help your child become a confident, capable reader? Look no further than Saguaro Library or Ocotillo Library & Workforce Literacy Center for this 10-week program designed for children in need of reading and boost literacy skills! Registration required.

Mondays & Tuesdays, September 14 through November 3, 2026: 3:45–4:45 p.m.
Saguaro Library

Mondays & Thursdays, September 21 through November 19: 3:30–4:30 p.m.
Ocotillo Library & Workforce Literacy Center

## College Depot Grand Re-Opening Expo




*After undergoing a significant expansion for the past year, College Depot is officially re-opening! Calling all students, youth, families, and educators! Join us for a day filled with interactive workshops, colleges & universities, learn about local scholarship opportunities, and more!*

College Depot Grand Re-Opening Expo
September 10, 2026
4–8 p.m.
Burton Barr Central Library

## Discover Something New with September'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 **September 7**, join award winning author and historian David O. Stewart for a conversation about the nine men who came together to form the formation of the United States and explore what did and didn't get said about democracy is presented in *The Democracy We Must Keep: Why the Ideas that Build America Still Matter.*



On **September 8**, join master storyteller and Pulitzer Prize for Fiction winner Daniel Kraus as he takes you on a journey deep dive into his breathtaking new novel, *The Sixth Wa*.



On **September 15**, join world renown master facilitator Priya Parker as she discusses and teaches how to spot, name, prevent and effectively navigate conflict in her groundbreaking new release, *The Art of Fighting: The Transformative Power of Conflict.*




## Teens and Parents: City of Phoenix Parks Wants to Hear from You!




The City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is seeking community feedback on current and future teen and youth programming.

Your insight will help us better understand what teens, youth, and families want and need from Parks and Recreation programs and help shape future opportunities throughout the city.

Whether you or your household currently participate in programs or have ideas for what you would like to see in the future, we want to hear from you! **Take the survey today:** phoenix.gov/parksyouthsurvey

## Light Rail is Coming to West Phoenix!



Join Valley Metro and the City of Phoenix at one of three upcoming open houses to learn more about the proposed West Phoenix Extension project, ask questions and share your feedback.

Saturday, Sept. 19
10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Maryvale Community Center
4420 N. 51st Ave., Phoenix, 85031

Wednesday, Oct. 14
5–7 p.m.
Sidelo Indian School Memorial Hall
300 E. Indian School Rd., Phoenix, 85012

Can't attend in person? Learn more about the proposed project, provide feedback online and sign up for project updates by visiting Light rail is coming to west Phoenix!




## Grant Applications Open for Historic Home Repairs

The City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Office is now accepting applications for this year's Exterior Rehabilitation Grant Program. The program helps owners of historic homes maintain and preserve their properties by offering funds for approved exterior work.

The program offers 50/50 matching grants of up to $20,000 for exterior repairs that meet historic preservation standards. Common project types include roof work, masonry repairs, porch restoration, and removing changes that are not consistent with a home's original historic design. To qualify, homeowners must live in a City designated historic district or own a home listed on the City's Historic Property Register.

Applications are due by Friday, October 9, 2026, at 5 p.m.

Learn more and apply by visiting phoenix.gov/pdd/historic-preservation/exterior-rehab-assistance.




**Labor Day/September 7**. In observance of Labor Day, all Phoenix Public Libraries including Cholla Library will be closed. Cholla Library offers extended full-service library hours as part of the City of Phoenix's Heat Relief efforts and will be open on Labor Day from noon – 9 p.m. All Phoenix Public Library book drops, and digitalresources remain available. Visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org for more details.

**Thanks for reading!**
Stay curious with Phoenix Public Library.
Visit www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org | Call 602-262-4636

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