

# WILMINGTON CONNECTS



• • • NEWSLETTER • • •  
**SPRING 2026**



## WE'RE SPRINGING INTO ACTION!



**A Message from Mayor Dietz** - Warmer weather invites residents and visitors alike to enjoy the beauty of the Kankakee River, our parks, and our historic downtown. This year is especially meaningful as we join communities across the United States in celebrating America's 250th anniversary, while also commemorating the 100th anniversary of U.S. Route 66—a milestone that holds special significance for Wilmington as proud home of the Gemini Giant. These celebrations, along with local events, infrastructure improvements, and community projects, reflect both our rich history and bright future. I encourage everyone to take part in the festivities, support our local businesses, and continue the strong spirit that makes Wilmington such a wonderful place to call home.

### Let Freedom Rock Returns June 26

The City of Wilmington invites residents to join us on **Friday, June 26, 2026, at North Island Park** for the 5th Annual Let Freedom Rock Celebration. This year's event is especially meaningful as we celebrate the **250th Anniversary of America** and the **100th Anniversary of U.S. Route 66**.



Starting at 6:00pm, this free, family-friendly evening will include live music, food trucks, kids' activities, and a fireworks finale. Drawing nearly 4,000 attendees each year, this popular event is made possible through generous community support.

Mark your calendar and join us for a memorable night celebrating freedom and community.



### City Offices Closed For The Following Holidays

Easter Good Friday - Friday, April 3rd  
Memorial Day - Monday, May 25th





## Sidewalk Replacement Program

As part of our ongoing commitment to safety and accessibility throughout our community, the City of Wilmington is pleased to highlight the **Sidewalk Replacement Program**, a cost-sharing initiative available to residential property owners.



This program helps address hazardous or deteriorated sidewalks by sharing the cost of repair work between the City and participating homeowners on a first-come, first-serve basis – while funds are available.

**Here's how it works:** residents who are concerned about the condition of their sidewalk can complete and submit an application to the Public Works Department. After submission, City staff will inspect the sidewalk to determine if it meets the program's criteria for replacement, which includes conditions such as uneven panels, significant cracks, or other hazards. If eligible, the City will calculate the shared cost and notify you, and you then choose whether to proceed. Work will not be scheduled until the City receives your payment.

### Important details to know:

- The program applies only to sidewalks located in the public street right-of-way – not to driveways, curbs, or apron areas.
- There is no obligation to participate – you decide after receiving the cost estimate.
- Funding is limited and seasonal, so applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and the program may close once funds are exhausted.
- The City typically begins work within 30 days after payment is received.

For more information or to obtain an application, visit the City's website at: <https://wilmington-il.gov/s/Sidewalk-Program-Overview-Application.pdf> or contact the Public Works Department at City Hall at 814-476-2175.

Let's work together to make Wilmington's sidewalks safer and more inviting for all this spring and beyond!

**For additional information about the city, please visit our website at  
(<https://www.wilmington-il.gov>)**





# WILMINGTON PARK DISTRICT



## Earth Day 2026

Celebrate Earth Day with us at the Wilmington Park District! Join our **park clean up from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** at Children's Memorial Park to help keep our parks beautiful, then come back for **Critter Class at 6:00 PM** for some hands-on, nature-filled fun. It's a great way to give back to the planet and learn something new along the way!

## Youth Programing

### Toddler Open Play: Fri @ 8-10am

- 1-3yo
- \$7/Drop in
- 15 toddler maximum

### Ballet/Tumbling:

Tuesday's @ 5pm (3&4)  
Thursday's @ 5pm (5-9)

### Lil Adventurers: Tues @ 9am

- 4/7-5/12
- 1-3yo
- R/\$50 NR/\$60
- Drop in: \$10/class

WILMINGTON PARK DISTRICT

## FITNESS CLASS SCHEDULE

### MONDAY

9am: Sweat & Sitters  
10am: Low Impact Chair Class  
11am: HIIT  
5pm: Pilates  
6pm: Belly Fusion Fitness  
7pm: Line Dancing (NO CLASS 3/9)

### TUESDAY

10am: Seated Tai Chi

### WEDNESDAY

10am: Low Impact Chair Class  
11am: HIIT  
5:30pm: Throw Down Dance Fitness  
6:30pm: Yoga

### THURSDAY

10am: Stretch & Restore  
11:30am: CardioBox  
6pm: Pilates

### FRIDAY

10am: Low Impact Chair Class

**3/2-5/22**

\*NO CLASSES WEEK OF 3/30\*

## Kid's Club Upcoming Days Off/Breaks:

**No School:** Kid's Club open 6AM-6PM

- \$40/day
- March 2nd

**Half-day!:** Kid's Club open 11:30AM-6PM

- \$25/day
- March 2nd

### Spring Break Camp!:

Kids Club Spring Break Camp is the perfect way to keep kids active and having fun during their break, running March 30-April 6! Camp is closed on Good Friday (April 3). Registration open now!

**\*\*Summer Camp Registration  
OPENS March 15<sup>th</sup>!\*\***





# WILMINGTON PARK DISTRICT



## Upcoming Events

\*Check website & FB for details\*

- 3.6: Hearing Aid Clinic
- 3.13: Hearing Screening Clinic
- 3.21: Red Cross Blood Drive
- 3.28: Breakfast with the Bunny
- 3.31: Slime Time!
- 4.2: The Landing Pad OPENS
- 4.13: Propagation Station w/ Hope & Rayne
- 4.15: Turning Grapes into Wine  
@ Mistie Hill Winery
- 4.22: Critter Class
- 4.30: Route 66 Kickoff Bus Trip to Old  
Joliet Prison/Slammer's Game
- 5.2: Red Carpet Corridor
- 5.3: Run the Rock 6.6k @ Joliet Prison
- 5.5: Mom & Me Tea
- 5.13: Mistie Hill Winery Tour
- 5.16: Boat America Course
- 5.16 Gong Class
- 5.29: LWSRA Sock hop/Karaoke night!

## Water Street Fitness Hours

Monday-Friday 5am-8pm

Saturday 7am-6pm

Sunday 7am-2pm

\*FREE SENIOR HOURS M-F, 1-3pm\*

## Red Cross Blood Drive

**March 21st 8am-1pm**

The Park District and the Masonic Lodge invite you to participate in our upcoming Red Cross Blood Drive at the Wilmington Park District. The Mason's will also be doing family Identifications. Save the date and please consider taking the time to donate and helping those in need.

## Program Highlights

### 03.09-03.30: Beginner Sewing

Beginner Sewing was a hit last time, so we are doing it again! Let's brush up those skills or learn a new one.

### 04.15: Turning Grapes into Wine

Meet us at Mistie Hill Winery to learn how wine is made from start to finish! Presented in partnership with the Wilmington Garden Club.

### 05.05: Mom & Me Tea

Join us at Art on 66 for a fun craft project with your and your littles! Plus tea and dessert included.



WILMINGTON PARK DISTRICT



# March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Genealogy Club @6pm	3 Dr. Seuss Party @12pm City Council Mtg. @7pm	4 Passport to Celebration: Ireland @1pm	5	6 Free Hearing Clinic @10am	7
8	9 WCHC Mtg. @6:30pm	10 Committee of the Whole Mtg. @5:30pm Library of Things "Petting Zoo" @5-7pm	11 Seed Swap @5-7pm	12 Planning & Zoning Mtg. @5pm Electronics Recycling @5pm	13 Free Hearing Testing @10am	14 Puzzle Competition @1pm
15	16 LEGO Club @3:30pm Library Board Mtg. @7pm	17	18 Bingo @1pm Finance & Land Mtg. @6:30pm City Council Mtg. @7pm	19	20	21 WPD Blood Drive @8am
22	23	24	25 In-person Craft: Easter Craft @1pm	26 Park District Board Mtg. @7pm	27 LIHEAP @9-11:30am Cozy Mystery Book Club @1pm	28 Breakfast w/ the Bunny @10am Rick Riordan Book Club @1pm
29	30 Barbie Club @3:30pm	31 Slime Time @1pm	*Please see Park District pages for full schedule of Group Fitness Classes*			

## CALENDAR KEY

CITY HALL

LIBRARY: ADULT SERVICES

LIBRARY: YOUTH SERVICES

PARK DISTRICT: ADULT PROGRAM

PARK DISTRICT: YOUTH PROGRAM

OTHER LOCAL ORGANIZER

**\*WPLD Weekly Recurring Programs:**  
 Homework Happy Hour: Wednesdays @3:30pm;  
 Coffee, Tea, My Toddler, & Me: Thursdays @11am;  
 Kidz Crafternoon: Thursdays @6pm

### Featured Park District Programs:

Beginner Sewing - Mondays @6pm  
3/9 - 3/30

Line Dancing - Mondays @7pm  
3/2 - 3/30  
\*No Class 3/9\*

Lil' Adventurers - Tuesdays @9am  
3/2 - 3/24

Toddler Open Play - Fridays @8-10am  
3/6 - 3/27

# April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Passport to Celebration: Ukraine @1pm	2  The Landing Pad Opens!	3 Blood Drive @12-4pm	4
5  EASTER	6 Genealogy Club @6pm	7 City Council Mtg. @7pm	8 In-person Craft: Spring Craft @1pm	9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. @5pm Electronics Recycling @5pm	10	11 Wine Walk!
12	13 Pokémon Club @3:30pm WCHC Mtg. @6:30pm Propogation Workshop @6:30pm	14 Committee of the Whole Mtg. @5:30pm Library of Things "Petting Zoo" @5-7pm	15 Bingo @1pm Turning Grapes Into Wine @1pm Handwriting Analysis Workshop @5pm	16 Nature Walk @10am	17 Cozy Mystery Book Club @1pm	18 Rick Riordan Book Club @1pm Bunco @1pm
19	20 Library Board Mtg. @7pm	21 Finance & Land Mtg. @6:30pm City Council Mtg. @7pm	22 Earth Day Park Clean Up @10am Critter Class @6pm	23 Park District Board Mtg. @7pm	24 LIHEAP @9-11:30am	25
26	27 Pokémon Club @3:30pm	28	29	30 Slammers Game Bus Trip @ Old Joliet Prison		

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**\*Please see Park District pages for full schedule of Group Fitness Classes\***

Featured Park District Programs:  
 Line Dancing - Mondays @7pm 4/6 - 4/27  
 Lil' Adventurers - Tuesdays @9am 4/7 - 4/28

# May 2026

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					1	2
						Red Carpet Corridor 9am Rick Riordan Book Club @1pm
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Run the Rock 6.6k @ Old Joliet Prison @10am Rotary Sip & Stroll @12pm	Star Wars Day @4pm Genealogy Club @6pm	Lil' Adventurers @9am Mom & Me Tea @6pm City Council Mtg. @7pm		Planning & Zoning Mtg. @5pm Electronics Recycling @5pm		Rte. 66 Presentation @1pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	WCHC Mtg. @6:30pm	Lil' Adventurers @9am Committee of the Whole Mtg. @5:30pm Library of Things "Petting Zoo" @5-7pm	Mistie Hill Winery Tour @11am In-person Craft: Flower Pot Ladies @1pm	Nature Walk @10am		Gong Meditation @9am Boat America Course @9am
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Pokémon Club @3:30pm Library Board Mtg. @7pm	Finance & Land Mtg. @6:30pm City Council Mtg. @7pm	Bingo @1pm Garden Club @1pm		LIHEAP @9-11:30am Cozy Mystery Book Club @1pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				Park District Board Mtg. @7pm	LWSRA Sock Hop & Karaoke @6pm	
31						

\*WPLD Weekly Recurring Programs:  
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Coffee, Tea, My Toddler, & Me: Thursdays @11am;

**\*Please see Park District pages for full schedule of Group Fitness Classes\***

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# WILMINGTON PARK DISTRICT



## 6.6k on Route 66



Don't miss out on this once in a lifetime 100 year celebration of Route 66 and running on, through and along some of the areas biggest Route 66 icons.

Sun., May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Run the Rock @ Old Joliet Prison

Sat., June 6<sup>th</sup>: Giant Summer Run @ The Gemini Giant

Sat., July 11<sup>th</sup>: Pit Stop @ Dwight Ambler's Texaco



### LWSRA Sock Hop at the Wilmington Park District!

May 29th | Ages 14 +  
6pm-7:30pm

Get ready to twist, shout, and rock around the clock! LWSRA is hosting a Sock Hop at the Wilmington Park District featuring pizza, karaoke, socializing, and lots of old-school fun. Grab your dancing shoes and join us for a night of music, friends, and good vibes.

Register today @ [www.lwsra.org](http://www.lwsra.org)

### BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

MARCH 28TH, 2026

10:00am-11:30am

Children's Memorial Park

\$5/Child



50 years  
**One Community**  
Endless impact



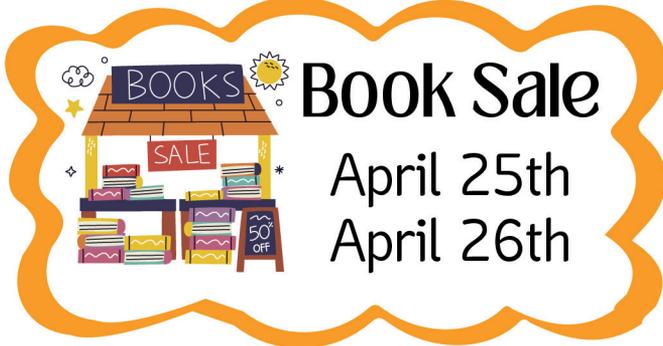
## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ROUTE 66 IN WILMINGTON

Wilmington proudly holds its place along historic US Route 66, home to the iconic Gemini Giant and a rich roadside history that continues to attract visitors from around the world. As Route 66, approaches its 100th anniversary in 2026, our community has even more reason to celebrate.

The Wilmington Public Library will host Barbara J. Barrett for a special presentation, "Happy 100th Birthday US Route 66," on Saturday, May 9 at 1 PM. Join us for a nostalgic journey along "The Mother Road," beginning in Chicago and exploring the history, charm, and memorable attractions that have defined this legendary highway since 1926.

Registration is required. Please call the library at 815-476-2834 to sign up.

Do not miss this opportunity to celebrate Route 66's centennial and Wilmington's unique connection to this historic roadway



### LIBRARY OF THINGS BORROW BEFORE YOU BUY

#### TUESDAYS WITH TRICIA

Join us the second Tuesday of each month from 5:00-7:00pm to see what our Library of Things holds. March will focus on gardening. April will feature our health and fitness items. And May will focus on our tool collection.

#### GIVING BLOOD WARMS THE HEART



Wilmington Public Library is excited to announce a community blood drive with Versiti Blood Center of Illinois scheduled for April 3rd from noon to 4pm. Appointments are encouraged to ensure efficient processing. Please call 815-476-2834 or visit <https://donateblood.versiti.org/> to make an appointment. We ask all participants to bring a valid ID and to hydrate before arriving. Thank you for your support and commitment to giving the gift of life!



The Palace Project is up and running! This new app hosts the eRead Illinois collection.

## hoopla UPDATE

The Wilmington Public Library District, like many other library systems across the country, is discontinuing Hoopla as it is no longer sustainable within our budget because of:

- High costs: Hoopla's pay-per-use model results in unpredictable and often escalating expenses. The cost per borrow is significantly more expensive than Libby.
- Limited usage: Hoopla was used by only a tiny fraction of our patrons.
- Overlapping content: Many Hoopla titles are also available on Libby, Palace Project, Kanopy, or in our physical collection.

Given the increasing popularity of digital materials and the Library's limited budget, it is important that we direct our resources toward services that allow us to maximize the impact of our digital collection.

Hoopla will no longer be available for our patrons after April 30, 2026.

### Library Hours

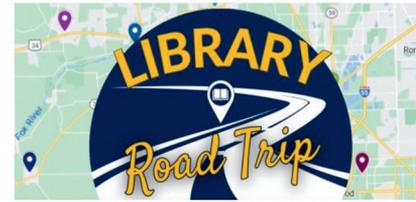
Monday - Thursday 9 am - 8pm  
Friday and Saturday 9 am- 5 pm  
Sunday 12- 5pm

### Library Phone Number

815-476-2834

Get our PrairieCat On the Go Mobile app in the Google Play Store or in iTunes

## LIBRARY ROAD TRIP 2026



Where will your adventure take you?

Make time this spring for the Library Road Trip! Plan your visits to various Illinois libraries to see the sites and explore their unique offerings. Follow us on social media or call to find out when you can pick up a library passport at our circulation desk or any participating library. Visit each library to collect a souvenir for visiting (while supplies last) and a stamp on your passport.

Collect as many stamps as you can, then turn in your passport at your home library for entry into a drawing for an awesome prize basket offered by your home library!

## THANK YOU TO OUR WINTER READING SPONSORS!

- Geri's the Dam Hair Salon
- Berkots
- The Flower Loft
- Heavenly Head Spa
- Wilmington Lion's Club
- Mimi's Cafe



## NOTICES

The Library will be closed April 5<sup>th</sup>, May 10<sup>th</sup>, and May 25<sup>th</sup>.



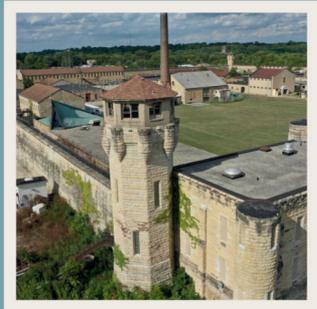
100 YEARS OF ROUTE 66



Apr 30<sup>th</sup> ●●●

**Slammers at the Old Joliet Prison**

Let's go to the Big House Game for the 100 year celebration kickoff! Grab your tickets on sale at [www.jolietlammers.com/bhbg](http://www.jolietlammers.com/bhbg); then reserve your seat on the bus from the Wilmington Park District so you can sit back and enjoy the festivities. [www.islandparkdistrict.com](http://www.islandparkdistrict.com)



May 2<sup>nd</sup> ●●●

**Downtown Flea Market**

9am-4pm. The Chamber of Commerce Downtown Wilmington welcomes all our travelers to stop and enjoy our shops, establishments and dining plus vendors lining the streets! Pick up your commemorative sticker here!

**The Landing Pad - Open 9am-6pm**



May 3<sup>rd</sup> ●●●

**Rotary Sip & Stroll**

12-4pm. Meet us at the Giant and taste locally grown, owned or made beer and wine while you peruse & purchase local art.

**The Landing Pad - Open 9am-4pm**

Stop and pick up your commemorative sticker here today during open hours!



W I L M I N G T O N C O N N E C T S

Text-For-HELP gives teens and their families a healthy resource to express their struggles.



Teens dealing with any type of feelings can use our anonymous service to get professional help from our certified counselors.

**Text 1-844-823-5323 with the message of 476-Help** and a response will be texted back within 3 minutes.