



Spring is in the air!

Do you need some fresh ideas for your garden? Check out our excellent collection of gardening books. We also carry magazine subscriptions to *Fine Gardening*, *Herb Companion*, and *Better Homes & Gardens*. You can check out books and magazines for 3 weeks and renew them if you need more time.

Displays:

Spring is full of new beginnings. To celebrate, we have a fun new display for the upcoming **Royal Wedding**. We also have fun spring displays of books, such as **baseball** and our upcoming **Sneak Peeks** displays featuring hot authors **Jeffrey Deaver**, **John Sanford**, and **Dorothea Benton Frank**.

Proposed State Budget Once Again Reduces Library Funding

Governor Kasich introduced the Executive Budget March 15 and as expected it includes a proposal to further reduce State funding to public libraries. The reductions total 5% resulting in a loss of an additional \$1.9 million dollars in annual State funding for our Library.

I'm sure everyone reading this message is aware of the extent of cuts public libraries have already sustained. State funding over the last decade has dropped by 30%. Over the same decade, Library use has increased by 23%. To continue operating with severely reduced funding, the Library has implemented cost savings measures including the \$1 million a year realized with the reorganization of the Main Library. We have reduced staffing and hours, doubled overdue fines, and postponed or cancelled capital projects. To further stretch our dollars, the Library has sought out additional partnerships and collaborations with government agencies, nonprofits, media outlets, and area businesses. Even with these measures we would not have been able to keep all 40 of our branch libraries open without the new tax levy funding Hamilton County residents so generously supported.

Should our State funding be further reduced, be assured that we will do everything possible to keep our services accessible, affordable and available to all Hamilton County residents. We are committed to offering the very best in Library service and will do everything possible to prevent further reductions to public library funding.

Programs:

Join us at the Westwood Branch Library for these exciting programs!

For information on any of our programs, please contact us at 369-4474.

Book Club – Thursday April 28 at 7:00 p.m. – Adults



This month's selection is *The Secret Life of Emily Dickinson* by Jerome Charyn. The narrative spans Dickinson's life from her time as a student at Mt. Holyoke Female Seminary to the end at her family's homestead. As the story unfolds, Charyn displays Dickinson's closeness with and affection for her doting father, caring brother, loyal sister, and tempestuous sister-in-law. Though Dickinson was reclusive, Charyn paints her passionate inner life, which involves imaginative romances with many unconventional suitors.

- ❑ **Movers & Shakers** - Every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. - Ages 1-4
- ❑ **Computer Open Lab** - Thursday April 7 at 10 a.m.-11:00 a.m. - Adults *Registration Required*
 - Do you think a mouse is a furry rodent? Bring your computer questions; we have answers! We can help you with general computer basics, typing instruction, setting up a free e-mail account, Microsoft Office 2007, and online job applications and resumes. First Thursday of each month, call (513) 369-4474 to register.
- ❑ **Jelly Bean Taste-off** - Thursday April 7 at 6:30 p.m. - Ages 12-18 *Registration Required*
 - Think all jelly beans taste the same? You'll be the judge of the best brands and flavors.
- ❑ **Family Movie and Ice Cream Social**—Tuesday April 19 at 6:30 p.m.— All Ages
 - See Despicable Me (PG) and enjoy an ice cream treat! Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; movie begins at 6:30 pm



Programs made possible by The Friends of the Public Library, and the Kersten Fund. For more programs at other library locations, check out our program calendar: <http://www.cincinnati.org/programs/calendar.html>

Westwood Branch Library
 3345 Epworth Avenue
 513-369-4474
www.cincinnati.org

Hours of Operation:
 Monday/Tuesday/Thursday: 12-8
 Wednesday/ Friday/Saturday: 10-6