



DISCOVER

Evansville Vanderburgh
Public Library

200 SE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Evansville, Indiana 47713

812.428.8200
evpl.org

CONTACT:

Becca Scott

Director of Communications

812.428.8200 ext. 1437

media@evpl.org

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For Immediate Release

EVPL Creates “Pastimes” Publication for Older Adults

Evansville, IN – “[Pastimes: Activities for Adults](#)” is a new publication created by EVPL, specifically with older community members in mind. Filled with engaging learning experiences, the booklets are a tool for connection, creativity, and cognitive stimulation.

A committee of EVPL staff developed “Pastimes” in 2024 with input from Dementia Friendly USI/Evansville, a group of senior care experts and advocates focused on improving the lives of those experiencing memory loss. First responders in the group also noted that sometimes seniors experiencing confusion and loneliness will call 911 with non-emergency calls; those responding to these calls wanted something helpful to be able to give the caller.

The 24-page booklets feature puzzles, word games, art projects, memory exercises, and more, all designed to appeal to a variety of interests and abilities. “Pastimes” also includes information about helpful programs and organizations in the community.

“The pilot edition of ‘Pastimes’ had an initial printing of a few hundred copies that were distributed at EVPL locations and through several community partners,” said Kelli McDaniel, Programming Librarian at EVPL. “The feedback was so positive that we had to do additional printing, and the initiative moved from a pilot project to part of EVPL’s ongoing programming.”

In addition to “Pastimes,” EVPL also offers [Memory Care Kits](#) within the Library of Things collection. The kits feature books, activities, games, puzzles, and other materials for adults living with dementia, as well as their care partners.

“The ‘Pastimes’ project is an exciting and meaningful way for us to connect with and serve members of our community who can often be overlooked,” said Becca Scott, Director of Communications, EVPL. “From literacy initiatives for young children, to special projects like ‘Pastimes’ and Memory Care Kits for those experiencing memory loss, EVPL exists to serve all members of our community.”

more

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The new edition of “Pastimes” released this spring has a travel theme, evoking the excitement and memories created by vacations; the pilot edition featured a nature theme. All editions of “Pastimes” are timeless and undated, allowing them to be enjoyed at any time.

The travel-themed “Pastimes” is currently available at all EVPL locations. Printed copies have also been provided to more than 20 organizations in the community, including those that helped initiate the project: Ascension St. Vincent Behavioral Health Services; Brickyard Healthcare Woodbridge Care Center; USI’s Bronstein Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness; Daughters of Charity Ministries, Inc.; Heritage Woods of Newburgh; Oasis Senior Advisors Evansville and the Tri-State Area; Vanderburgh County Fire Department CARES Program; SWIRCA & More; and Walnut Creek Alzheimer’s Special Care Center.

More information about this initiative can be found at evpl.org/pastimes. The website also features printable digital versions of the first two editions.

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