



Books in Bloom, Richmond!

April 2026

Welcome to Imagination Library's monthly e-newsletter. Below, you will find helpful information designed to keep you informed and connected to our community's ongoing work to promote literacy. We are thrilled to have you as part of our growing family of readers!

Visit our website by clicking [here](#).

In the News

Sacred Heart Center Early Literacy Talk



We recently had the opportunity to host an early literacy talk at the Sacred Heart Center for Spanish speaking families in our community. Families gathered to learn simple ways to build literacy skills during everyday routines - from sharing stories together to turning daily activities into language-rich moments!

We were grateful to be joined by children's book author Christina Shawn, who shared engaging, easy to implement reading strategies families can use right away. A special thank you to Lance, Youth Programs Coordinator at the Sacred Heart Center, for providing translation and helping ensure every family could fully participate in the conversation.

The Sacred Heart Center provides education, family support, and development programs that empower Latino families in the Richmond region. To learn more about the work they do, visit their [website](#).

Upcoming Community Partner Events

April 4
[Dominion Energy Family Easter](#)

📍 Maymont
🕒 9am-3pm 🧡 all ages 3

[Edgar's Enchanted Garden Family Day](#)

📍 Poe Museum
🕒 10am-12pm 🧡 all ages

April 6

[Painted Rocks](#)

📍 West End Library
🕒 4-7pm 🧡 all ages

April 7

[Cherry Blossom Painting](#)

📍 Glinter Park Library
🕒 12-1pm 🧡 birth-10 years

April 9

[Craft Corner: Rainbow Art](#)

📍 Main Library
🕒 4-5pm 🧡 birth-10 years

April 10

[Richmond Poetry Fest](#)

📍 Visual Arts Center
🕒 11am-6pm 🧡 all ages

April 13

[Baby Artslay](#)

📍 North Avenue Library
🕒 10:30-11:15am 🧡 birth-5 years

April 14

[STEAM Team: Rain Cloud in a Jar](#)

📍 Glinter Park Library
🕒 12-1pm 🧡 birth-10 years

April 17

[The Basics with Blurry](#)

📍 North Avenue Library
🕒 10:30-11:30am 🧡 0-5 years

April 18

[Richmond Book Festival](#)

📍 Lois Harrison-Jones Elementary
🕒 11am-3pm 🧡 all ages

April 19

[National Library Week Storytime with Ripple](#)

📍 Main Library
🕒 3:30-4pm 🧡 0-10 years

April 20

[Broccoli Painting for Toddlers & Presk](#)

📍 Belmont Library
🕒 10:30-11:30am 🧡 best for ages 2-5 years

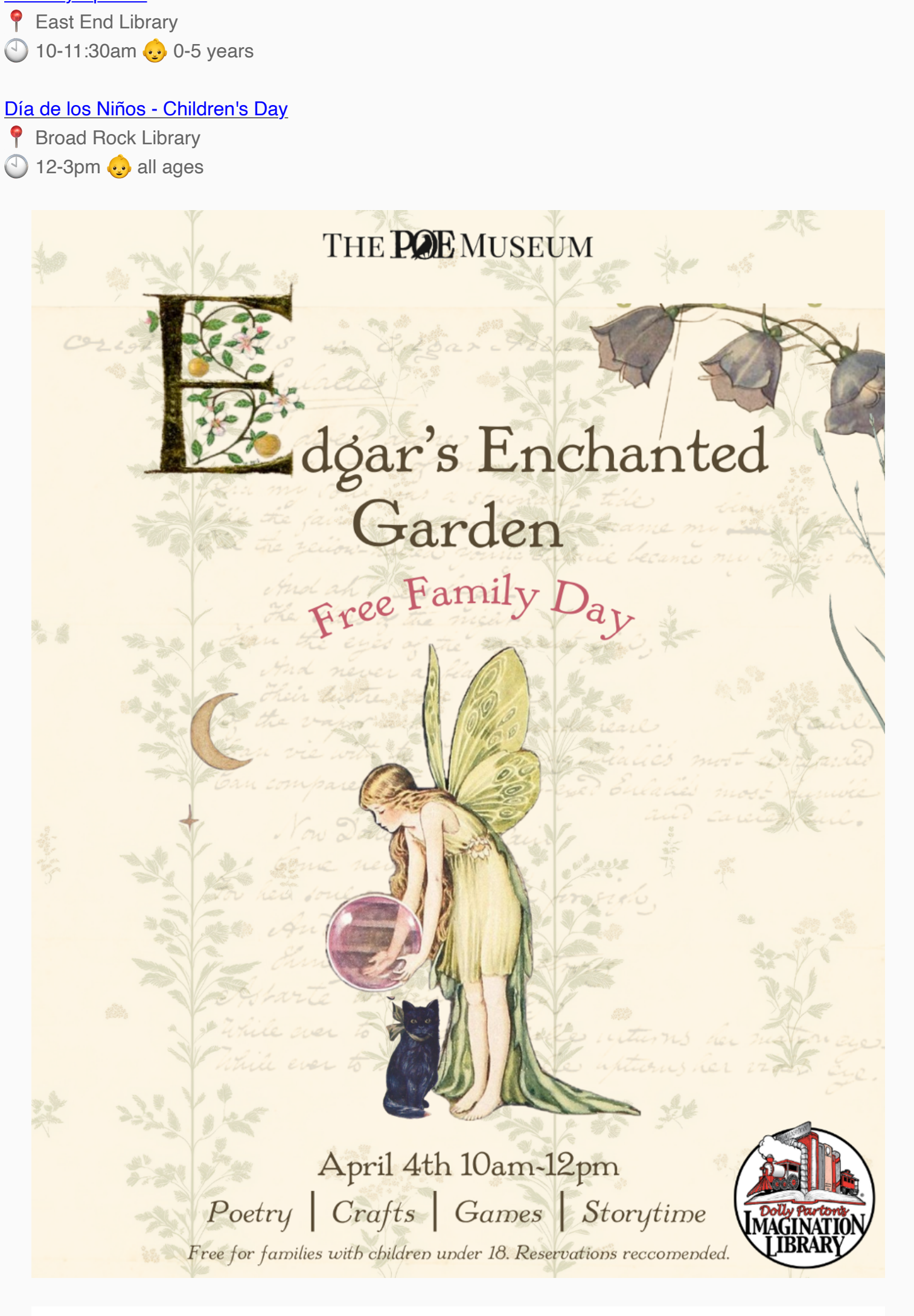
April 25

[Seasons Sprouts](#)

📍 East End Library
🕒 10-11:30am 🧡 0-5 years

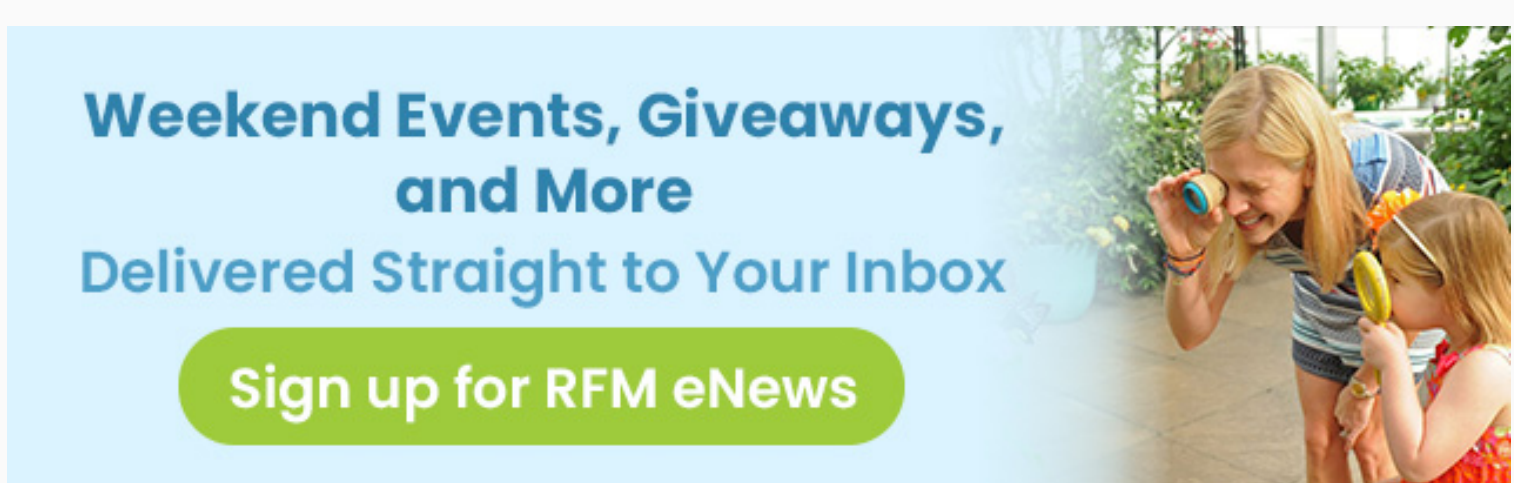
[Dia de los Niños - Children's Day](#)

📍 Broad Rock Library
🕒 12-3pm 🧡 all ages



Have a community event you would like us to include? [Email us!](#)

For even more community events for the whole family, be sure to pick up a free copy of [Richmond Family Magazine](#), available at over 850 spots all over RVA, including [these locations](#).



Look in the [We Love Our Local Libraries](#) section below for events at your local library!

Community Partner Spotlight



Since 1978, Assisting Families of Inmates (AFOI) has served families of the incarcerated with evidence-based programs providing meaningful visitation, family support and children's services.

AFOI's many programs are designed to help families cope with the incarceration of a loved one and better prepare for release and reunification. Through our Milk and Cookies (MAC) Children's Program and Family Support and Visitation Services, AFOI strives to prevent the breakdown of relationships among incarcerated individuals and their families by providing regular visitation opportunities, emergency assistance, community service referrals and educational services.

AFOI is one of only a handful of such organizations to serve families of the incarcerated throughout Virginia and across the United States. To learn more about AFOI, please visit [AFOI.org](#) or call 804-643-2401.

We Love Our Local Libraries!

Libraries offer a variety of resources and tools - usually for FREE! Not a member of your local library? Sign up wherever you are today.

This section of our newsletter shows examples of library offerings, brought to you by [Richmond Public Library](#).



Dolly's next stop: Belmont Library! Dolly joined Mirissa, Belmont's Youth Services Librarian, for a fun photo op in front of the library's colorful mural.

Belmont Library hosts weekly storytimes for children of all ages, including Book Babes (birth to 17 months) on Thursdays from 10:30-11:00am, Toddler Time (18-36 months) on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:00am, and Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5) on Tuesdays from 10:30-11:15am.

All Richmond Public Library locations offer programs and classes, event spaces, free wireless internet access, and public use computers. For upcoming events and additional programs at Belmont Library, check out the calendar [here](#).



Explore Sensory Play With Your Child This Month!

Your April 2026 Focus on The Basics Tip



Five senses.

As you're selecting a book to read with your child, try to provide books with different shapes, textures, and colors. Imagination Library offers a vibrant variety of titles-- and your local library is a cornucopia of further options. Your child will love to examine the soft and hardbacks, the different illustration types, and the numerous smells and textures that come with reading a book. You might be surprised by what interests them the most.

Visit this principle from [The Basics here](#).

To learn more about how you can [Explore Through Movement and Play](#), [click here](#).

Early childhood organizations all around the City of Richmond have joined [The Basics movement](#), a strategy for whole communities to support vibrant learning and brain development among infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Fun, simple, and powerful, starting at birth, [The Basics](#) are five science-based parenting and caregiving principles that support social, emotional, and cognitive development. Each month [Read to Them](#) will highlight tips and strategies that will assist you in creating a sturdy foundation for school readiness for our youngest citizens.

Visit [TheBasicsVirginia.org](#) for more information.

Current Number of Local Imagination Library Readers



To check the availability of Imagination Library in your area, [click here](#).

