



The Ford Connection

The Thomas Ford Memorial Library

WINTER 2023-24

Winter Reading Challenge

Teens/Tweens & Adults
Sign-Up: December 15

Bring in the new year with some reading, some chocolate, and some knitwear! Sign up for our second annual **Winter Reading Challenge** and get a small selection of holiday chocolates. Everyone who reads 3 or more books this winter will also receive a cozy knit cap. Registration is required and can be done online or in-person. The challenge is open to everyone from 5th grade to adults!

ADULT

Registration opens on **Monday, November 27** at **9:30 a.m.** for all Adult programs.

Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. Register online, in person, or by calling (708) 246-0520.

Ⓜ Registration required

The History & Folklore of Santa Claus Ⓜ

Wednesday, December 13, 7 p.m.

Where did our modern-day Santa Claus come from, and why does he remain so popular in American popular culture? Learn from Laura Keyes of Historic Voices how a pious Christian bishop became a beloved "jolly old elf," complete with nostalgic illustrations and poems.

Using the Library from Home Ⓜ

Monday, January 15, 7 p.m.

With your Thomas Ford library card, you can download and stream free books, magazines, movies, music, and more all from your mobile device or home computer! Learn how to get started and ask any questions you have about our digital services to this virtual presentation with Adult Services Librarian Rachel Hoover.

Classroom Kitchen

Virtual Programs with Kristyn Slick

Feliz Navidad Fiesta: Mexican Holiday Cuisine Ⓜ

Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m.

Learn how to create the vibrant flavors of Mexican cuisine and celebrate the rich culinary traditions associated with Christmas in Mexico.

Saucier's Secrets: The Five Mother Sauces Ⓜ

Wednesday, January 24, 6:30 p.m.

Become an expert on the five mother sauces in modern cooking practices, which will help you read menus, decide what to order, and know how to make sister sauces.

Heart Healthy Cooking for American Heart Month Ⓜ

Wednesday, February 21, 6:30 p.m.

Learn to grill and bake meals low in saturated fats, cholesterol, and sodium while still being full of flavor.



↪ *Recognize him? That's our very own Thomas Ford!*

Adult Monthly Book Box Ⓜ

December 1-31*

Avid reader? Looking for some personalized book recommendations? Fill out the form on our website to tell us a little bit about what you like to read, and each month get 2 books and some other goodies! Return the books and the box to receive your next month's recommendations, but keep the other items. An email will be sent when your next book box is ready to be picked up, and you can stop at any time. The first book boxes will be ready for pickup in the month of January. ***Must be a Western Springs resident for this service.**



Puzzle Swap

January 22-28

Tired of completing the same puzzle? Swap out your gently used puzzle for a new-to-you challenge at the Reference Desk!

Edgar Allan Poe: To Tell a Tale Ⓜ

Wednesday, January 31, 7 p.m.

Literary chills abound in this spine-tingling program as Edgar Allan Poe, played by Terry Lynch, gives a brief biographical sketch of his life, along with the retelling of some of Poe's greatest works, like "The Raven" and "The Tell-Tale Heart."

The Village Read Book Discussion: Great Tales & Poems by Edgar Allan Poe

Tuesday, February 6, 7:30 p.m.

This winter, the Library is in the mood for a truly chilling read. We're encouraging the whole village to pick up our collection of Edgar Allan Poe's most spine-tingling tales and poems. Free copies will be available on December 15. Then on February 6, we will get together for some food, fun, and great conversation about the book.

Britain's Hidden Treasures Ⓜ

Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 p.m.

Jackpot historical finds aren't uncommon in Britain thanks to its rich history: Viking hordes, Anglo Saxon treasure, and even King Richard III buried under a city parking lot. Join Anglophile and former U.K. resident Claire Evans in this virtual presentation as she tours the country's most interesting archeological finds, and learn tips if you'd like to visit them for yourself one day.

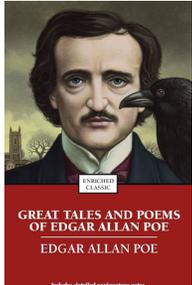
A Night at the Oscars: Best Picture Spotlight

Wednesday, February 28 | 7 p.m. Ⓜ

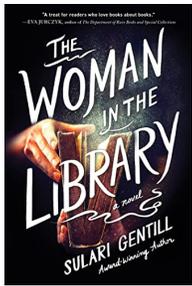
It's time to get red carpet ready and delve into the history of the Best Picture category! Join Film Historian Dr. Annette Bochenek as she presents the evolution of the Best Picture category, memorable Best Picture contenders, and this year's nominees. The program will include a multimedia presentation consisting of photos, video clips, and captivating stories.

books

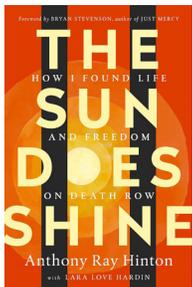
Library book club discussion groups are open to anyone who enjoys good books! Extra copies are available at the Library one month before the discussion.



Tuesday, February 6
7:30–9 p.m.
Great Tales & Poems
by Edgar Allan Poe
Fiction

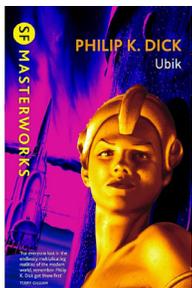


Wednesday, February 7
7:30–9 p.m.
The Woman in the Library
by Sulari Gentill
Mystery/Thriller



Wednesday, March 6
7:30–9 p.m.
The Sun Does Shine
by Anthony Ray Hinton
Memoir

Science Fiction & Fantasy Book Club



Monday, February 12
7:30–9 p.m.
Ubik
by Philip K. Dick
Sci-Fi & Fantasy

where
people
and
ideas
connect

GROUPS & DISCUSSIONS

These ongoing Library groups are free for all to attend. No registration required.

Knitting Circle

Every other Thursday: December 14; January 4, 18; February 1, 15, 29; 1 p.m.
Join us for knitting, conversation, and light refreshments.

Western Springs Writers' Society

Second & Fourth Thursdays: December 14; January 11, 25; February 8, 22; 7 p.m.
Discuss and hone your craft with other writers from the community! Whether this is your career or hobby, writers of all levels and genres are invited. Questions in advance? Please contact Jim Swinehart at jrswinehart10@gmail.com.

Investment Discussion Group

Second Tuesdays: December 12, January 9, February 13; 7:15 p.m.
Amateur investors meet to discuss trends in stocks, bonds, and more.

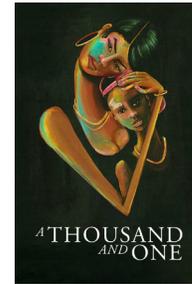
Spice of the Month Club

Interested in trying new recipes or experimenting with different spices? Stop by each month to pick up a Spice of the Month kit! Each kit will come with the necessary spice, a recipe to try, and cookbook recommendations that feature recipes with that month's theme. While supplies last.

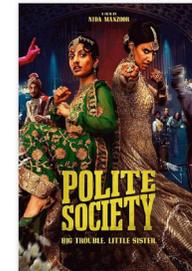
December 26: Ginger | **January 30:** Coriander | **February 27:** Vanilla Bean

films

A series of independent, foreign, and documentary films with optional discussion after each screening. Registration required.



Thursday, December 14 ^R
6 p.m.
A Thousand and One
Winner of the Sundance Grand Jury Prize
Drama



Thursday, January 11 ^R
6 p.m.
Polite Society
Winner of the Palm Springs Int. Film Festival Directors to Watch Award
Comedy/Adventure



Thursday, February 8 ^R
6 p.m.
Past Lives
Winner of the HCA Award for Best Indie Film
Drama/Romance

CRAFTS!

For Adult Craft Programs: First preference will be given to Western Springs residents. If you are a Thomas Ford cardholder, please be sure to enter your library card number when registering. If you do not enter your card number, you will be put on a pending waitlist and are not guaranteed a spot in the program. View full program details online at fordlibrary.org.

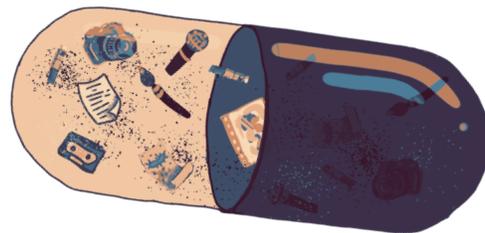
Holiday Centerpiece Workshop ^R
Tuesday, December 5, 12 p.m.

Winter Wreath Workshop ^R
Monday, December 11, 7 p.m.

Winter Paint & Sip ^R
Monday, January 8, 7 p.m.

Photo Frame DIY ^R
Monday, February 5, 7 p.m.

TEEN/TWEEN



Registration opens on Monday, November 27 at 9:30 a.m. for all Teen & Tween programs. *Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. Teen programs are open to those in grades 5–12.*

Ⓜ Registration required

Teen Monthly Book Box Ⓜ

December 1-31

Avid reader? Looking for some personalized book recommendations? Fill out the form on our website to tell us a little bit about what you like to read, and each month get 2 books and some other goodies! Return the books and the box to receive your next month's recommendations, but keep the other items. An email will be sent when your next book box is ready to be picked up, and you can stop at any time. The first book boxes will be ready for pickup in the month of January.

Cinnamon Tree Ornament Kit

Wednesday, December 6

Spice up the holidays with this handmade ornament crafted from cinnamon sticks and ribbon. Makes a great gift or decoration! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

Winter Solstice Lanterns Ⓜ

Monday, December 11, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Light up the darkest day of the year with a tin can lantern. Punch your own design into the can using a hammer and nail, then put in a tea light and watch your lantern glow!



Holiday Party!

Friday, December 15

3:30–5 p.m. Ⓜ

Celebrate the holiday season at the Library! Decorate a gingerbread house then make a gift to take home. Snacks will be provided.

Teen Writers Workshop

Grades 6-8

Second Thursdays, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

December 14 at La Grange Park Panera;

January 11 at La Grange Library;

February 8 at Thomas Ford

Love to write, but want audience feedback? Share your talent and comments with peers in this writing and critique style program.

We meet once per month and rotate between the La Grange, Thomas Ford Memorial, Linda Sokol Francis Brookfield, and La Grange Park Libraries. Registration is encouraged, but drop-ins are welcome!



Find the Raven

December 15–February 15

Once upon a midnight dreary you wandered to the Teen/Tween Room weak and weary, and found a raven named "Nevermore". You picked a prize from a box of treasure then hid the raven at your leisure, for another teen to find, perhaps Lenore.

Exam Cram

December 18-21, 3–8:45 p.m.

Stop by the Reading Room for all your studying needs: snacks, pencils, and quiet space reserved for Teens and Tweens only.

Teen Board

Third Thursdays: December 21, January 18, February 15; 7 p.m.

Teen Board can be a great way to earn volunteer hours! If you have ideas for how the Library can better serve teens and tweens, come join us! The Teen Board implements programming suggestions, recommends books, and gives input for ways to entice other teens to visit the Library. We do a fun craft or activity every meeting! Open to students in grades 5-12. Meet in the Teen/Tween Room.

Time Capsule

Friday, January 5

3:30–4:30 p.m. Ⓜ

Celebrate the new year by creating a time capsule for your future self! Decorate a box and then fill it with photos and other mementos, to be opened by you in 5 years. A wireless photo printer will be available if you'd like to print out photos.

Ice Lantern Kit

Friday, January 12

Make your own outdoor ice lantern to light your way through the snow! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

Everybody 1-2-Switch! Game Night Ⓜ

Monday, January 22, 4–5 p.m.

Test your wits and reaction time in a series of large group games sure to make you laugh!

Snowflake Sand Art Ⓜ

Monday, January 29, 4–5 p.m.

Create beautiful sand art by layering colored sand in a snowflake-shaped bottle.

Teen/Tween Movie Night Ⓜ

Monday, February 5, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Join us for a screening of the film, *Wonder*. Popcorn and refreshments will be provided.

Light-Up Valentine's Day Card Ⓜ

Friday, February 9, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Learn to make a simple circuit, then brighten someone's day with this light-up Valentine's Day card!

Board Games Galore Ⓜ

Monday, February 19, 3:30–5 p.m.

Start a Monopoly, get a Clue, or picture it with Pictionary! Come play a fun board game, just for Teens and Tweens! Snacks will be provided.

Kool-Aid Lip Balm Kit

Friday, February 23

Treat yourself to a flavored lip balm, handmade by you! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

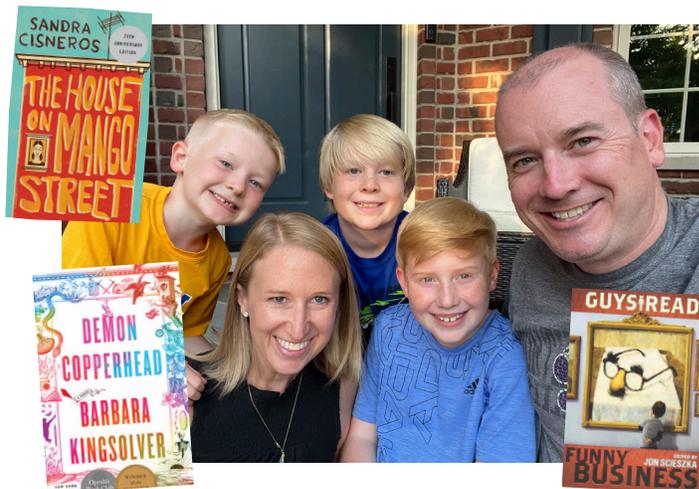
THOMAS FORD LIBRARY FOUNDATION

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Charles & Jessica McGinnis

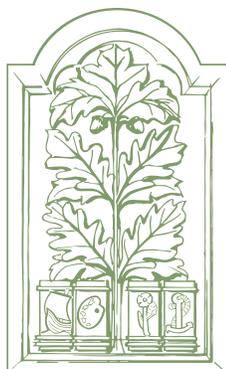
Upon moving to Western Springs, Charles and Jessica McGinnis quickly discovered the wonderful programs and services available at the Thomas Ford Memorial Library. The McGinnis children, Colin, Ryan, and Benjamin, were regular attendees of storytimes when they were younger, displayed their Pokémon and Lego collections and treasures, and participated in the summer reading programs. More recently, the Mario Smash Bros. tournament was a smashing success for Colin!

The McGinnis family is quick to emphasize what they value most at the Library: the wonderful staff, who, in addition to being helpful and resourceful, truly share your child's excitement in finding a new book or developing a new interest.



Jessica enjoyed The Village Read selection, *The House on Mango Street*, and Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*. She thanks Miss Uma for the recommendations for her children, including the *Guys Read* series of books.

The Thomas Ford Library Foundation thanks the McGinnis family for their generous support!



Thomas Ford Library Foundation's 2023 Annual Appeal

In collaboration with the Library staff and Board, the Thomas Ford Library Foundation helps fund key improvements to keep Thomas Ford a valuable community resource. Please consider donating by check, giving online at fordlibrary.org, or scanning the QR code on this page. Donations to the Foundation make a major impact and are also tax-exempt. Thank you for your consideration and support.



Special Virtual Programming

The following virtual events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration between public libraries offering high-quality events. ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility. To request accommodations, please email illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com. View full program details and the most up-to-date information at fordlibrary.org.

Surviving the Holidays with Lori Gottlieb [®]

Wednesday, December 6
7 p.m.

The *New York Times* bestselling author of *Maybe You Should Talk to Someone* and co-host of the "Dear Therapists" podcast talks mental health in anticipation of the winter season.

Virtual Screening: The Nutcracker (The Royal Ballet) [®]

December 16-17
Enjoy Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* performed by the United Kingdom's internationally-renowned Royal Ballet. Register to receive a link to stream via email.

Speculating Our AI Future with Cory Doctorow, Ken Liu, and Martha Wells [®]

Thursday, January 11
7 p.m.
The three bestselling science fiction authors discuss the promise, perils, and possible impacts of AI.

A Conversation with Jerry Craft [®]

Tuesday, February 6
7 p.m.
The bestselling author, illustrator, and syndicated cartoonist talks life, art, and his journey to success. Plus, he'll lead a drawing demo that will be fun for the entire family!

A Conversation with Julia Quinn [®]

Tuesday, February 20
7 p.m.
The *New York Times* bestselling author discusses her wildly popular *Bridgerton* series and all things romance.

YOUTH

Registration is required for ALL programs unless otherwise noted.

Storytime Registration begins on Tuesday, December 5 at 9:30 a.m. for Lapsit, Toddler Time, and Preschool Pals only.

For all other programs, Youth Services Program Registration begins on Wednesday, December 6 at 9:30 a.m.

Register online at fordlibrary.org.

Have your library card ready to register online, in person, or by calling (708) 246-0520.

First preference will be given to Western Springs residents.

® Registration required



Bracelet Making (Taylor's Version) ®

Grades 2-4

Wednesday, December 13

4:30-5 p.m.

Happy Birthday Taylor Swift! Let's celebrate by listening to music and making friendship bracelets!

Culture Shock Chicago!

Tuesday, February 20

4:30-5:15 p.m.

Families Welcome ®

The Culture Shock Chicago performance includes a resident DJ with full sound equipment, turntables, and a group of highly skilled dancers. The performance incorporates freestyle, lecture demonstration, seated movement, and audience participation!

Elephant & Piggie Visit the Library!

Saturday, December 9

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Families Welcome

Meet Elephant and Piggie from Mo Willems' popular book series. Enjoy a special storytime, crafts, and opportunities to take a photo with Elephant and Piggie during their visit.



Baby & Toddler Playgroup ®

Birth-2

Mondays: December 18 & February 19

10-11 a.m.

Explore the power of play! Join us for playtime and stories that support the development of social & early literacy skills.

Ornament Workshop ®

Grades K-4

Wednesday, December 20

4:30-5 p.m.

Join us in creating beautiful handmade ornaments to take home. Do you need a gift for someone special? We will pack it in a gift bag so you can keep it a secret!

Nature Storytime with the Morton Arboretum ®

Grades K-4

Thursday, January 4

10-10:30 a.m.

A guest presenter from The Morton Arboretum will join us to share fun nature stories that help us notice how weather, trees, and animals change with the season!



R.E.A.D. to a Therapaws Pet ®

Recommended Grades K-2

Mondays: January 8 & February 12

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Beginning or independent readers can practice reading aloud to one of the dogs from Hinsdale Humane Society's Therapaws Program. Each child will have a 10-minute slot. We will advise you of your time slot via email prior to the session, which is allotted on a first come, first served basis. *Due to the popularity of this program, we request that you register your child on one day only.*

Alan Kazam ®

Families Welcome

Wednesday, January 17

4:30-5:15 p.m.

Alan Kazam had been delighting audiences with his unique brand of magic all over the country for 3 decades. Be amazed as birdcages vanish into thin air and bunnies multiply. You may even be chosen to float 4 feet in mid-air!

Read & Create: Mars! Earthlings Welcome ®

Grades K-4

Thursday, January 25

4:30-5 p.m.

Join us for a reading of *Mars! Earthlings Welcome* by Stacy McNulty, followed by a creative sponge art craft.

LEGO Family Night [®]

Families Welcome

Thursdays: February 1 & 29

6:30–7 p.m.

Families of LEGO enthusiasts are invited to join us each month to practice and learn LEGO building techniques. Using teamwork and your imagination, build a creation that will be on display in the Youth Services Department for one month. LEGOs will be provided by the Library for this program.

Activities!

Cozy Quilt Creations

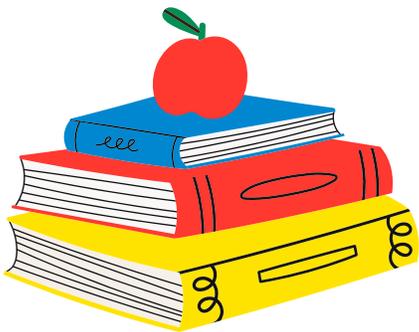
December 1–31

Brrr, it's cold outside! Pick up a quilt patch from the Youth Services Desk to decorate and color and return to us. We will create a quilt display that pieces together your beautiful designs!

Elf Scavenger Hunt

December 1–31

Come to the Youth Services Department to try and find Tinsel the Magic Elf! He will be hiding among the books and shelves in a different location every day. Find Tinsel and receive a sticker!



Lapsit Storytime [®]

Birth–23 months w/ adult

Wednesdays or Thursdays or Fridays

10–10:30 a.m.

Help your baby grow up to love books! Share stories, songs, and rhymes with your little one in this lapsit program and introduce them to a lifetime of reading and language enjoyment.

Valentine Card Making [®]

Families Welcome

Wednesday, February 7

4:30–5 p.m.

Would you like to make a Valentine for a special someone? We will provide craft supplies to your heart's desire.



Leap into the New Year

January 1–31

Start 2-0-2-4 off with a fun counting challenge. Search the Youth Services Department each week for a different number of wintery items and receive a treat!



Family Movie Night: Kanopy Kids [®]

Families Welcome

Thursday, February 22

6–7 p.m.

Enjoy viewing animated picture books from the library streaming service Kanopy Kids. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

Railway Readers

January 1–May 31

Hop aboard the reading train and join our School Year Reading Challenge! Pick up a reading log at the Youth Services Desk and track your reading minutes. Return the completed log to us to earn a prize!

Peppa Loves Reading!

February 1–29

Peppa Pig is hiding in the Youth Services Department and is reading her favorite books. Tell us what color heart is on her book each day and earn a special prize!

Storytimes!

January 8–February 16

[®] Registration required

Registration is required for all storytimes and begins on **Tuesday, December 5 at 9:30 a.m.** online at fordlibrary.org. First preference will be given to Western Springs Residents.

Due to the popularity of our storytimes, we request that you register your child for one session only.

Toddler Time [®]

2–3.5 years w/ adult

Mondays: 10–10:30 a.m.

or Mondays: 11–11:30 a.m.

or Tuesdays: 10–10:30 a.m.

Introduce your toddler to early literacy and help build a foundation of reading. We pair short books with songs and rhymes to engage them. Toddlers love to wander and listen during our time together.

Preschool Pals [®]

3.5–5 years

Mondays or Tuesdays

1–1:30 p.m.

Hear stories, sing songs, and have fun with your friends! Storytime will highlight early literacy skills that children need to learn before they can read independently. Children attend this storytime **without** their grown-ups so that they can practice being independent.

**Thomas Ford
Memorial Library**

800 Chestnut Street
Western Springs, IL 60558
(708) 246-0520
fordlibrary.org

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Library Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
9:30 a.m - 5 p.m.
Sunday
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Library Closings

The Library will be closed on Thursday, November 23 for Thanksgiving, Friday, December 8 for Staff In-Service, Sunday, December 24 for Christmas Eve, Monday, December 25 for Christmas Day, Sunday, December 31 for New Year's Eve, and Monday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Board of Trustee Meeting Dates

The Board meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
Winter 2023 dates: November 28, January 23, February 27

Ted Bodewes, Library Director

Library Board of Trustees

Margaret Fahrenbach, President: margaretfahrenbach@fordlibrary.org
Jean Carroll, Treasurer: jeancarroll@fordlibrary.org
Carol Foster, Secretary: carolfoster@fordlibrary.org
Stephen Baker: stephenbaker@fordlibrary.org
Adam Fuelleman: adamfuelleman@fordlibrary.org
Ann Marie Kartsounes: annmariekartsounes@fordlibrary.org
Daniel Montgomery: danielmontgomery@fordlibrary.org

Evergreen Opportunities

Teen Volunteers Wanted!

If you're a teen and need volunteer hours, consider joining our Teen Board! We meet on the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Teen/Tween Room. You can sign up to volunteer on our website or by sending an email to Lily@fordlibrary.org. We have lots of volunteer opportunities available, so reach out to learn more!

Support the Library!

The Thomas Ford Library Foundation is dedicated to making a great library even better through gifts from the community. A meaningful, tax-exempt donation supports special Library initiatives and helps build an endowment for the Library's future. To learn more about giving, email foundation@fordlibrary.org.

Everyday Resources

A friendly reminder that Thomas Ford Memorial Library offers so much more beyond books and community programming. From high-speed internet, computer, and printing access to meeting room reservations and more, we're here to be your convenient one-stop destination for all things learning, connecting, and growing. Ask us about our services to make sure you're taking advantage of every resource you need.

you
belong
here



Access thousands of magazines and books at your fingertips through the **Libby app** or the **Media on Demand** website!

Learn a new skill with unlimited access to video classes taught by recognized design experts and artists on **CreativeBug.com!**