

Registration opens on Monday, December 2 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

Painting Holiday Cookies*

Wednesday, December 11, 7 p.m. Kick-start the holiday season with a joyful, tasty gathering! In this hands-on cookie decorating class, you will learn the A to Z's of crafting beautiful handpainted holiday cookies using fondant and edible watercolors. First preference will be given to Thomas Ford cardholders.

Using the Library from Home*

Monday, January 13, 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 bring any questions you have about our digital services to this virtual presentation, led by Adult Services Librarian Rachel Hoover.

Puzzle Swap

Monday, January 20–Sunday, January 26 Tired of completing the same puzzle? Swap out your gently used puzzle for a new-to-you challenge at the Reference Desk.

Salsa Dancing for Beginners*

Thursday, February 6, 7 p.m. Let's dance! Salsa is a lively and vibrant Latin American dance style that has become one of the most popular dances in the world. Learn the basics of Salsa with Desueño Dance, and add a fun, healthy activity to your lifestyle. Partners are not necessary to attend.

Spice of the Month

Spice up your life with a take-home kit that includes the necessary spice, a recipe to try, and some cookbook recommendations that feature relevant meals featuring each month's theme. While supplies last!

December 17: Cocoa Powder January 28: Cayenne February 25: Cilantro

Mah Jongg Open Play*

Monday, January 6, 7–8:30 p.m. AND Thursday, February 13, 2–3:30 p.m. Whether you are just learning to play Mah Jongg or are ready to try your hand at playing with others, come join our beginners group! Players will be sorted by self-ranked skill level and questions are welcome. Sets of tiles and cards will be provided, along with some assistance in game play.

The History of Elvis Presley*

Wednesday, January 22, 7 p.m. Celebrate Elvis Presley's seismic impact on pop culture with historian Gary Wenstrup. Through music and media clips, we'll explore how Elvis' music, voice, and charisma made him an icon, the highs and lows of his musical successes and underwhelming film career, and the unfortunate downward spiral that led to his death at age 42.

Seeking Old Charley: The Underground Railroad in Illinois*

Wednesday, February 19, 7 p.m. The Lombard Historical Society will share stories about the Underground Railroad across Illinois through the perspective of Old Charley, a freedom seeker listed in Illinois historical records. You'll gain insight into the institutional injustice of slavery, and learn about local conductors like Sheldon Peck, who offered his homestead as a safe haven for freedom seekers like Charley.



Special Virtual Programming This Winter

The following virtual events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration between public libraries offering high-quality events. Registration required. ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility. To request accommodations, please email illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com.



Tuesday, December 10, 7 p.m.

The Magic of Raina Telgemeier*
The New York Times bestselling author, illustrator, and critically acclaimed comics artist shares the process behind her beloved graphic novels and short stories.



December 20-22

Little Women: The Musical Experience Little Women: The Musical from the comfort of your home in this virtual screening of the 2022 stage recording at the Park Theatre in London



Thursday, January 9, 7 p.m.

Chicago Pizza: Past, Present & Future with Steve Dolinsky*
The NBC 5 Food Guy reporter at and James Beard award winner celebrates and savors the rich, delicious history of Chicago slices.



Thursday, January 23, 7 p.m.

Love & Laughs with Michelle Buteau*

The award-winning comedian and actress of the Netflix series "Survival of the Thickest" dives into optimism, humor, and hope.



Tuesday, February 4, 7 p.m.

An Evening with James McBride
The award-winning author, musician, and screenwriter known for "The
Color of Water" and "The Heaven and
Earth Grocery Store" talks storytelling to celebrate Black History Month.



Tuesday, February 18, 7 p.m.

An Evening with Amy Tan*
The internationally acclaimed author of "The Joy Luck Club" discusses and celebrates Chinese American life and the immigrant experience.



7:30 p.m. start

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.



Wednesday. December 4

The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune **Fiction**



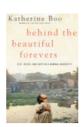
Wednesday, February 5

Cher Ami & **Major Whittlesey** by Kathleen Rooney Historical Fiction



Wednesday, February 26

American Indian Stories by Zitkála-Šá The Village Read



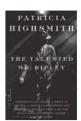
Wednesday. March 5

Behind the **Beautiful Forevers** by Katherine Boo Non-Fiction



Monday, February 3

Solaris by Stanislaw Lem Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Club Pick



Monday, January 27

The Talented Mr. Ripley by Patricia Highsmith The Monday Murder Club Pick

Book Boxes for Adults*

December 1-31

Eager to read more in 2025? Fill out the form on our website to tell us what you like to read, and each month you'll get 2 curated books and some other goodies. Return the books and the box to receive your next month's recommendations, but keep the other items. First boxes are anticipated to be ready during the month of January.



The Winter Village Read

Copies available Monday, January 6; Discussion on Wednesday, February 26 7:30 p.m.

Twice a year, Thomas Ford selects a book for the whole community to enjoy, with free copies and a book discussion. This winter, we're proud to share "American Indian Stories" by Zitkála-Šá, the origin story of an activist and a remarkable woman whose extraordinary career deserves wider recognition.



The Monday Murder Club

Join us for the first meeting of our new book discussion group devoted exclusively to mystery and suspense! The club will meet quarterly on the last Mondays of January, April, July, and October. To kick things off in style, we'll be discussing Patricia Highsmith's sleek noir masterpiece.



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

6 p.m. start



Thursday, December 12

The Holdovers* Dir. Alex Pavne

Comedy & Drama A cranky instructor stays on campus for Christmas break with a brainy troublemaker and a female cook who just lost a son in the Vietnam War.



Thursday, January 9

The Zone of Interest* Dir. Kathleen Roonev

Period Drama

Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Höss and his wife Hedwig strive to build a dream life for their family in a house and garden beside the camp.



Thursday, February 13

20 Days in Mariupol⁷ Dir. Katherine Boo

Documentary

Our virtual Classroom Kitchen series hosted by

Kristyn Slick. A recording will be emailed to all

registrants after each program. Even if you are

unable to attend the live event, please register if

you would like to receive the recording to watch

Ukrainian journalists become trapped during the Russian invasion and struggle to continue capturing the war's atrocities.

First preference will be given to Western Springs residents. Please have your library card ready.

Monday, December 9 3:30-5 p.m. **OR** 7-8:30 p.m.

Winter Centerpiece^{*★}

Create a standout seasonal gem! Materials will be provided, but please bring garden gloves and pruners as limited extras will be provided. Session is repeated to allow additional registrants; only register for one.

Monday, December 16 7-8:30 p.m.

DIY Hat Ornaments* Use yarn, fishing line, and pom-poms to create mini winter hats perfect for your tree or home decoration! All supplies will be provided.

Monday, January 13 7-8:30 p.m.

Valentine's String Art^{*★}

Create shapes perfect for Valentine's Day using string, felt boards and pins. All materials and a variety of designs will be provided.

Monday, February 4

Valentine's Bookmark Kit

Create a cute and functional felt heart bookmark! While supplies last.

Monday, February 10 7-8 p.m.

Paint (by Numbers) & Sip

Create a fun canvas masterpiece! All materials and a non-alcoholic drink will be provided, but please wear an apron or clothes you can get dirty!

6:30 p.m. start

Wednesday, December 11

Holiday Cookies*

This class will cover how to bake the perfect sugar cookie, followed by detailed, step-by-step guidance to use royal icing in decorating.

on your own time!

Wednesday, January 15

Vegan Comfort Food

This class will explore satisfying plant-based alternatives and show you how to create rich flavors and textures without any animal products.

Wednesday February 12

Chocolate Lovers Workshop**

This class will teach techniques for tempering chocolate, making ganache, and crafting chocolate desserts to enchant your special someone.

Registration opens on Monday, December 2 for all Teen & Tween programs.

Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted. Teen/Tween programs are open to those in grades 5–12.

* Registration required



Book Boxes for Teens & Tweens*

December 1-31

Eager to read more in 2025? Fill out the form on our website to tell us what you like to read, and each month you'll get 2 curated books and some other goodies. Return the books and the box to receive your next month's recommendations, but keep the other items. First boxes are anticipated to be ready during the month of January.

Exam Cram

Monday, December 16 - Thursday, December 19, 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!

Nintendo Switch Open Play

Friday, December 20, 3:45–4:45 p.m. Join us for multiplayer fun! Participants will choose which games to play. Snacks will be provided.

Origami Penguin Bookmark

Friday, January 3

Fold your way to crafting the most adorable penguin bookmark ever! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

Winter Shower Steamers*

Monday, January 27, 3:45–4:45 p.m. Breathe deeply and ease stress with a handmade therapeutic shower steamer to enjoy at home! A perfect opportunity to indulge in self-care.

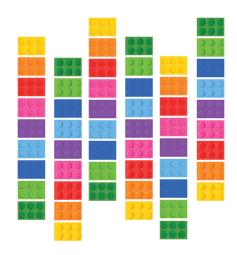
Hot Ice Cream Kit

Wednesday, December 4
Warm up with a nice hot bowl of ice cream! Use methylcellulose to make some delicious ice cream that solidifies at higher temperatures. Refrigerated ingredients not included. Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

Teen Board

Third Thursdays, 7 p.m.

December 19, January 16, February 20 Do you have ideas for how the Library can better serve teens and tweens? Join us to share programming suggestions, recommend books, and give input for Library events. We also do a fun craft or activity every meeting. Open to students in grades 5-12. Meet in the Teen/Tween Room.



LEGO Engineering*

Wednesday, January 8, 3:45–4:45 p.m. Create some LEGO structures with us! From bridges and catapults to rubber band powered cars and candy dispensers, we have a project for everyone. Or, feel free to come up with a design of your own!

Tween Book Club*

Thursday, January 9, 7 p.m. Join us for the second meeting of the Tween Book Club! We will discuss "The Last Cuentista" by Donna Barba Higuera. Extra copies are available one month before the discussion.

Nintendo Switch Pico Park *

Friday, February 21, 3:45–4:45 p.m. Join us for this 2-D action puzzle game to complete obstacles as a team! Snacks will be provided.

Teen & Tween Holiday Party

Friday, December 13, 3:30–5 p.m. Come celebrate the holiday season at the Library! Decorate a gingerbread house, participate in a gift wrapping competition, and make a gift to take home. Snacks will be provided.

Dungeons & Dragons 101

Saturday, January 25, 1–2:30 p.m. Hosted at La Grange Public Library Join D&D master, Steve Hurovitz, for an exciting introduction to this role play game. Learn a bit about D&D history, the basics of game play, and how to start exploring new lands and fighting weird monsters as quickly as possible. This presentation includes participation in a mini game during the program. For ages 12 and up.

Just Dance Competition

Friday, January 24, 3:45–4:45 pm So you think you can dance? Prove it! Show off your moves at our Just Dance competition. The winner will get a gift card. Snacks will be provided.

No-Sew Heart Pillow

Monday, February 3, 3:45–4:45 p.m. Using soft fleece, create your own heart pillow to give as a gift or keep for yourself!

DIY Valentine's Chocolates*

Wednesday, February 12, 3:45–4:45 p.m. Learn to make your own chocolates in cute heart shaped molds! Sprinkles and other candy ingredients will be available for adventurous chocolatiers.



Winter Seed Sowing Kit

Wednesday, February 26 Get a jump start on Spring by sowing seeds in your own mini greenhouse made from a reused milk jug. Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.



Donor Spotlight: The Capone Family

Jason and Amy Capone actively show their support for Thomas Ford Memorial Library by integrating it into their daily lives. The Library has a special place in their hearts, as it combines their love of reading with their passion for family and community bonding.

Together with their children, CeCe and Mia, the Capones regularly attend Lapsit Storytimes and Therapaws events, participate in the Library's annual summer reading program, stock up on DVDs for family movie nights, borrow cookbooks to try new recipes, and download audiobooks for their family road trips.

The Foundation sincerely thanks the Capone Family for their continued support and extends congratulations to Jason and Amy for becoming the newest members of the Oak Leaf Society. Your alignment of personal values with your to commitment to mindful giving is creating a major positive impact on the Library, its patrons, and in turn, our vibrant Western Springs community.

Be sure to check out the Capones' book recommendations below!





Jason's Pick

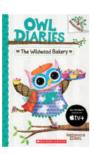
Any thriller book by Brad Thor



Amy's Pick

Daisy Jones & The Six

by Taylor Jenkins Reid



CeCe's Pick

The Owl Diaries Series

by Rebecca Elliott



CeCe's Pick

The Press Start! Series

by Thomas Flintham



Mia's Pick

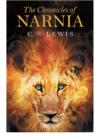
Pete the Cat Series

by Kimberly & James Dean



Mia's Pick

Elephant & Piggie Series by Mo Willems



Family Pick

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

Every new year brings great energy, reflection, and opportunity to support the causes and organizations that matter most to you. If you love and find value in the resources that the Library provides, consider including Thomas Ford in your 2024 holiday giving by donating to the Library Foundation's Annual Appeal at **fordlibrary.org.**

Gifts of any amount help the Foundation pursue relevant projects and fulfill critical improvements beyond the Library's regular budget. Your tax-exempt contribution will financially fuel the collective expectation of excellence —as well as the future and full potential—of Thomas Ford Memorial Library.

Recent donations permitted the Foundation to underwrite a total redesign of the Library's website in 2024. Now, Library resources are even easier to navigate, more reliable, and more accessible to all; programs and events have been fully integrated to make registration more seamless; and the Library's new logo that has been updated to better reflect the vibrancy and dimensionality of our local community.

We see you, we hear you, and we hope you feel valued—because you belong here.

On behalf of the Foundation, Board, and entire Library leadership and staff, we deeply appreciate every individual who continues to share their enthusiasm and support for Thomas Ford through their patronage, thoughtful donations, and endless positivity. We wish you a wonderful start to 2025, and we are always excited to see you sooner than later!

Registration is required for ALL programs unless otherwise noted.

Storytime Registration begins on Tuesday, December 3 at 9:30 a.m. for Lapsit, Toddler Time, and Preschool Pals only.

For all other programs: Youth Program Registration begins on Wednesday, December 4 at 9:30 a.m. Have your library card ready to register

at fordlibrary.org, in person, or by calling (708) 246–0520. First preference will be given to Western Springs residents.

* Registration required





Read & Create: How to Catch a Gingerbread Man*

Grades K-4

Thursday, December 19 4:30-5:15 p.m. Join us for a reading of Adam Wallace's "How to Catch a Gingerbread Man" and then make a craft.

Paddington Visits the Library

Families Welcome!

Saturday, December 7 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. Meet Paddington from Michael Bond's popular book series! Enjoy a special storytime (10:30-10:45 a.m.), crafts, and opportunities to take a photo with Paddington during his winter visit.



Let It Snow Show*

Families Welcome!

Monday, December 16

4:30-5:15 p.m.

Whatever the weather, join us for an inclusive sing-along led by the Old Town School of Folk Music. Rob Newhouse and Laura Doherty will perform songs of the season and warm our hearts with melodies familiar and new!



Noon Year's Eve Celebration*

Families Welcome!

Monday, December 30 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. 5... 4... 3... 2... 1... Happy NOON Years! Celebrate New Year's Eve with a Noon Year's Eve party. We will read the book

"The Night Before New Year's" by Natasha Wing, followed by a craft and countdown celebration.

Storytime Programs

January 13-February 21





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.





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 dance and
listen during our time together.





Preschool Pals*

3.5-5 years

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.



Nature Storytime with the Morton Arboretum*

Recommended ages 2-6 w/ adult Thursday, January 9 AND Thursday, February 27 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 seasons! Please register for each month individually.

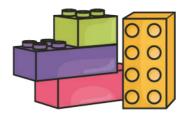


Rigamajig Builders*

Grades K-4

Tuesday, January 16 4:30-5 p.m.

4:30-3 p.m.
Rigamajig Builders is a large-scale building kit that sparks STEM/STEAM learning through collaborative and open-ended play. Join us and explore building with new friends!



LEGO Family Night*

Families Welcome!

Thursday, January 23 AND Thursday, February 20 6-7 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.



Family Fun Magic Show*

Families Welcome!

Tuesday, January 28 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Trent James adds a fresh spin on an art form that's been around for centuries. Instead of dramatic spotlights and rabbits in top hats, Trent combines sleight of hand magic with humor and genuine connection to ensure an enjoyable experience for all!



I Love BINGO*

Families Welcome!

Thursday, February 6 4:30-5 p.m.

Celebrate the season of love by playing the game we all know and love, BINGO!, featuring a special Valentine's Day theme.

Evergreen Programs

December-February



Elf Scavenger Hunt

December 1-23
Visit the 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!



Gnome's Woodland Friends Scavenger Hunt

January 1-31

Gnome has many animal friends that help him survive winter in the woods. Find what animal is helping Gnome for the day and get a sticker from the Youth Services Desk!



February Scavenger Hunt

February 1-28

Stop by the Youth Services Department to see what special surprise we have in store for you this month! Once you find it, you will earn a sticker.

Thomas Ford Memorial Library

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

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 28 for Thanksgiving
- Friday. December 6 for Staff In-Service
- Tuesday, December 24 for Christmas Eve
- Wednesday, December 25 for Christmas
- Tuesday, December 31 for New Year's Eve
- · Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day

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Ted Bodewes, Library Director

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Board of Trustees Meeting Dates

The Board meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Winter 2024 dates: January 28, February 25

Everyday Resources

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 any time to take advantage of everything!

Library of Things

We have a variety of cool and useful tools available for checkout in our Library of Things collection, including:

- Roku with Apple TV, Disney +, etc. Metal Detector
- LED Therapy Lamp
- GoPro Camera
- Travel Accessories
- Collapsible Projection Screen
- Memory Kits for Dementia
- ...and so much more!

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

Investment Discussion Group

Second Tuesdays: December 10, January 14, February 11

Amateur investors meet to discuss financial insights, trends, stocks, etc.

Western Springs Writers' Society

January 9, 23; February 13, 27

Discuss and hone your craft with other writers of all levels and genres! Contact Jim Swinehart at jrswinehart10@gmail.com with any questions.

Knitting Circle

Join us for knitting, conversation, and light refreshments.



you belong here