

Registration opens on Friday, February 28 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

This is Really War: The Heroic True Story of Twelve Navy Nurse POWs in WWII*

Tuesday, March 18, 1:30 p.m. Emilie Le Beau Lucchesi, PhD, author, journalist, and educator, will present the true story of twelve U.S. Navy nurses whose courage and bravery saved thousands of lives during World War II.

Weather & Storm Chasing 101

Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m. Explore the fundamentals of extreme weather with Illinois Storm Chasers. Discover the world of storm chasing, delve into local climatology, learn about previous tornado occurrences, gain knowledge of severe weather safety and preparedness, and participate in a Q&A session.

Gardening with Fewer Pesticides*

Monday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.

Many people are interested in using fewer chemicals in the garden. This program by Sharon Yiesla Horticulture Services covers a variety of methods for reducing the use of garden chemicals, as well as basic horticultural practices and mechanical and biological controls.

The 1906–1910 Cubs Dynasty: Rowdy Times and Rugged Men in Cutthroat Chicago*

Wednesday, March 26, 7 p.m.
The early 20th century Cubs were a rowdy group of brawlers, bickerers, and battlers who dominated the National League and established a baseball dynasty. Hear wild stories of the men behind this championship baseball team and learn how their toughness and tenacity fittingly reflected Chicago from local author Gary Santella. Books will be available for purchase by cash or check after the presentation.



Hive Talkin' with Three Bees Honey Farms*

Wednesday, April 23, 7 p.m.
Join local Beekeeper Konni Vukelic of
Three Bees Honey Farms for a
one-of-a-kind interactive presentation on
bees and beekeeping. Learn more about
the daily lives of bees, how honey is made,
and the important ways that bees impact
us and the world at large. Light honey
samples will be available.



Special Virtual Programming This Spring

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.



Tuesday, March 4, 7 p.m.

Exploring Space with Coralie Adam**

Join the Illinois aerospace expert for an inside look into the space industry in conversation with Renae Kerrigan, Curator of Science and Director of the Dome Planetarium at Peoria Riverfront Museum.



Thursday, April 10, 7 p.m.

The Art of Foraging with Alexis Nikole Nelson biscover the art of foraging with the outdoor educator, who uses her social media platforms to celebrate all the edible plants hiding in plain sight.



March 21-23

9to5: The Story of a Movement**

Watch the previously untold story of the fight that inspired a movie and a hit song and changed the American workplace. Registrants will receive an email with a special link to the documentary starting Friday, March 21 at 2 p.m.



Spring Migration Bird Walk

Tuesday, April 8, 10 a.m.
Join an expert birder for a spring migration bird walk at Bemis Woods!
Springtime is most birders' favorite time of year in the Chicago area, as breeding birds are singing and migrating birds are pouring through. You will look for a variety of migrant and resident birds, learn all about migration and the birds you see, and be able to ask all of your burning bird-related questions.

Mah Jongg Open Play

Monday, April 21, 7–8:30 p.m. AND Tuesday, May 6, 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.



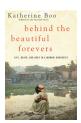


Crafting Herbal Mocktails*

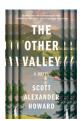
Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m.
Learn how to make simple syrups and herb extractions to craft a myriad of herb flavored and scented alcohol-free mocktails. Marcy Lautanen-Raleigh, owner of Backyard Patch Herbs, will show you how to make bitters, stir up a faux Gin, and blend alcohol-free martinis, fizzes, and sours while discussing the history of herbs in alcoholic beverages.

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.

7:30 p.m. start



Wednesday, March 5 **Behind the Beautiful Forevers** by Katherine Boo *Non-Fiction*



Wednesday, April 2 The Other Valley by Scott Alexander Howard Time Travel Fiction



April 28

A Man Lay Dead
by Ngaio Marsh
The Monday Murder
Club Pick



Wednesday, May 7 **The Great Divide** by Cristina Henríquez *Historical Fiction*



ONE DAY ONLY!

The Stardust Grail
by Yume Kitasei
Sci-Fi & Fantasy
Book Club Pick

Saturday, May 3
Stop by with the
entire family to grab
a FREE comic book!
While supplies last.



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



Thursday, March 13
Conclave*
Dir. Edward Berger
2024, Political Thriller
Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes)
is tasked to choose a new Pope and
finds himself at the center of a
conspiracy that could shake the very
foundation of the Catholic Church.



Thursday, April 10

Wicked*
Dir. Jon M. Chu
2024, Fantasy Musical
University students Elphaba and
Galinda reach a crossroads in their
friendship after an encounter with
the Wonderful Wizard of Oz.



Thursday, May 8
A Complete Unknown
Dir. James Mangold
2024, Biographical Musical
In 1961, 19-year-old Bob Dylan
arrives in New York City with his
guitar and starts his meteoric
rise to becoming one of the
best-selling musicians of all time.



Open Mic Night*

Monday, May 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Read, perform, or sing your heart out at our open mic night co-hosted by the Western Springs Writers' Society! All ages and genres are invited to read or perform a piece of their own original work that is no longer than five minutes, and anyone is welcome to attend as part of the audience.

crafts

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

7 p.m. start

Monday, March 3

St. Patrick's Day Wreath *Celebrate the luck of the Irish by making a festive wreath! All materials will be provided.

Monday, April 14
Felt Florals

★

Create adorable and practical floral magnets using felt. All materials will be provided.

Thursday, May 1

DIY Soap Take Home Craft Kit Celebrate Spring by making your very own crushed flower soap! Kits including materials and instructions will be available for pick up beginning May 1. While supplies last.

Monday, May 5

Paint a Pot*

Create a masterpiece on a terracotta pot. All supplies will be provided.



6:30 p.m. start

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 on your own time!

Wednesday, March 12

Taste of Ireland*

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with two classic Irish dishes! We'll whip up a hearty shepherd's pie and bake traditional Irish soda bread.

Wednesday, April 23

Light & Bright Spring Dinners [★]

Eager to enjoy easy, delicious dinners? Learn how to create fresh, light meals that are big on flavor and short on prep time.

Wednesday, May 21

Mediterranean Feast: Flavors of the Sun**

Discover vibrant, healthy dishes packed with fresh herbs, bold spices, and zesty ingredients that will transport your taste buds!

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!

March 25: Sage April 29: Himalayan Pink Salt May 27: Matcha

Registration opens on Friday, February 28 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

TWEEN Book Club*

7 p.m. start

Read and reflect with us! Extra copies are available one month before each discussion.



Thursday, March 6
The Benefits of
Being an Octopus*
by Ann Braden



Thursday, May 1

The Blackbird Girls
by Anne Blankman

College Planning Webinar*

Tuesday, March 4, 7–8 p.m. 2025 introduces significant changes to the ACT/SAT, and college admissions continue to get more selective. Learn about the revamped ACT and SATs and how test-optional can be evaluated. We'll introduce new strategies to give students the best opportunity to be admitted and maximize scholarships!



Fairy Door Kit

Friday, March 28 Decorate a whimsical fairy door to welcome fairies into your garden! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.



Mindy McGinnis Author Visit*

Monday, March 17, 7–8:30 p.m.
Wondering how you can become a published author one day? Stop by to meet author Mindy McGinnis in-person at the Library! The award-winning novelist will speak about her craft, take audience questions, and sign books. McGinnis is an Ohio-based farm girl and Young Adult author of the Edgar Award-winner "A Madness So Discreet," plus numerous other titles including psychological thriller "Be Not Far from Me" and the gothic horror mystery duology "The Initial Insult" and "The Last Laugh." This event will be hosted at the La Grange Public Library.



Nintendo Switch FRIDAYS

Open Play

Friday, March 14, 3:45–4:45 p.m. Join us for multi-player fun and choose which games to play! Snacks will be provided.

Super Mario Party Jamboree*

Friday, April 11, 3:45–4:45 p.m. Pick your favorite character and join us for minigame mayhem! Snacks will be provided.

Runbow*

Friday, May 30, 3:45-4:45 p.m. Run your way to the finish line in this multiplayer party game! Snacks will be provided.

Teen Board

Third Thursdays: March 20, April 17, May 15 7 p.m.

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.

Quesadillas & Guacamole *

Monday, April 7, 3:45–4:30 p.m. Learn how to make quesadillas and guacamole with customizable ingredients, then taste your creations!

Clay Nature Imprint Kit

Monday, April 21 Celebrate Earth Day by making a clay impression of the beauty of nature! Available in the Teen/ Tween Room. While supplies last.



DIY Kites*

Monday, April 28, 3:45–4:45 p.m. Go fly a kite! Make your own design, then see how it flies!

Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 3 Stop by to celebrate and snag a free comic book! While supplies last.

Star Wars Day Pretzel Light Saber Kit

Sunday, May 4
Fight off hunger with these delicious candy-dipped light saber pretzel sticks!
Available in the Teen/Tween Room.
While supplies last.

Mother's Day Felt Flowers*

Wednesday, May 7, 3:45–4:45 p.m. Create a handmade bouquet of felt flowers for your mom or grandma that will last forever!



We are very grateful for the strong community response to the Thomas Ford Library Foundation's 2024 Annual Appeal. These gifts reflect the important place that the Library has in our community, and they enable the Foundation to financially support exciting projects that make using the Library easier and more efficient, such as the redesign of the Library's website which we funded in 2024. Thank you to all of those who gave throughout the past year!

Paul & Mary Altman

Marie & Robert Anderson in appreciation of the WS Writers Society Seth & Sarah Anderson in honor of Browning and Grant Anderson

Mary Jane Anthony Andrew & Brooke Ariens

Kathy Arnold Mr & Mrs Robert Avina

Joan Ayres, in memory of Pete Ayres

William & Joan Binder
The Brandstedt Family in memory of Jeanette Brandstedt

Mary & Marty Brown Marcia Buell Bob & Deb Bularzik Mary & Bill Burke Liz Burns

The Capone Family Jim & Amy Casey Kristin Challacombe Sharon Cloghessy

Marie Cote in memory of Louis Cote

Margaret Cunningham in memory of Karen Lipinski

Bob & Linda Daman Wendy Davies Peter & Barbara DeBerge Jodie Distler Hanzlik Deborah Dixon Michael & Mary Doepke

Linda Dolezal Jean Dukes

Daniel & Wendy Duquette
Mike & Sue Durkin in appreciation of Library Staff

John & Fran Dzuryak

Bonnie Engel in honor of her family John Ericson & Lisa Den Besten

Jeffrey Evans

Peggy Fahrenbach & Richard Sykes in memory of Herman Bodewes

MeLisa Feeley

Randy & Joyce Ferrari in appreciation of Library Staff

David Flockencier

Catherine & Woody Forns
Carol & Rob Foster in honor of the WS Library Friends

The Fuelleman Family

Sheila Gallagher in appreciation of Library Staff Laura & Steve Gatland

Robert & Diane Genaze

The Giering Family in appreciation of Library Staff

Mr & Mrs Andrew Gore Kersten Gorski Karen & Joseph Goyer George & Shirley Graves The Graziano Family Robert & Virginia Grecco Mary & Steve Greska John & Linda Grissim

Susan Morrow & Todd Halamka in honor of Leslie Karas

Thomas & Sheila Hansen

Shelley Hebert Paula & James Hellige Rose & Jim Horvath

Barbara Hultman in memory of Jon E. Hultman

Celia Hunt

Mark & Linda Hussey Joan Hwang Susan Jacob

Karin & Tim Janowski Michael Jewell

Kay Johnson in memory of John I. Johnson

Tom & Judy Josefek Harry & Karen Kannry Leslie & Paul Karas Adam Kellerman Brian & Kathleen King Laurie Koshgarian Barbara Lamb

Mary Lee & Jim Larsen in memory of Karen Lipinski Julie & John Lillquist

Charles Macke

Tom Davy & Mary Kay Malas Patricia & Mark Manetti in appreciation of Library Staff

Tara Marszewski

Jessica & Charles McGinnis in honor of Martha & Fred Phillips-Patrick

Mark & Sandy McLaughlin in memory of Karen Lipinski Michael & Jaynellen Mikulski

Grant Miller in honor of Norman Mailer

Joanna Miller

Lori Mitchell & Scott Edwards

Dan & Marilyn Montgomery
Jennifer & Bob Morgan in memory of Bob Olds
MaryJo & Tom Mulcahy
Mr. & Mrs. John Mulvaney

Lisa Mungai in memory of Aldo Mungai The Mungai-Hannon, Willand & Barton Families in memory of Aldo Mungai Linda & Win Murray Edward Neafsey

Keith Newton Janice Nowak

Thomas Oczkowski in memory of MaryAnn Oczkowski Josh & Jacquie Odelson Barbara & Tom Pfendler Daniel & Carolyn Pihera

Mary Pirman in memory of Margaret Pirman

Ray & Nancy Powers Anne & John Purdy

Gwen Quackenbush in honor of Anne Kozak Purdy and Liz Burns

Emily Rehn Ara Řobinson Sue Schierholtz Daniel Schultz Christine Scriba Warren Mary Lou Sejud Terry & Kerry Sheehan

Peggy Spagnola Patricia Stamper in memory of William Stamper

Mark & Jacqueline Stoll

Donna Strunk in memory of Henry Strunk

Tom & Beth Sullivan James Swinehart Karen & Tom Teegarden Paul & Eva Thomas

The Thornton Family in memory of Nancy Bertucci Anne Valentin in memory of Richard Valentin

David Vick Charles & Ruthann Vihon

Maureen White

Nancy Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Winans
Elizabeth & Larry Wood-Hull Jim Ols & Mamie Yee

Bernadette Zaczek Anonymous (6 gifts) Kirkland & Ellis matching gift

UBS Wealth Management matching gift

To learn more about becoming an Oak Leaf Society member and/or investing in the Library's future by leaving a gift in your will, contact us at foundation@fordlibrary.org or (708) 246-0520.

YOUTH

Registration is required for ALL programs unless otherwise noted.

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

For all other programs: Youth Program Registration

begins on Tuesday, March 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



Spring Into Spring!*

Grades 2-4

Thursday, March 6 4-4:45 p.m.

It's almost spring! From pens to Slinkys, we will discover some of the ways we use springs every day. Participants will take home a craft using springs.



Picture Book Club*

Grades K-1

Wednesdays: March 19 **OR** April 23 4-5 p.m.

Come explore the world of picture books by joining our new book club! Each meeting will focus on a different character, author, or picture book series. We will read stories, play games, and finish with a craft.



The Velveteen Rabbit*

Families Welcome!

Wednesday, March 12 4:30-5:15 p.m.

A special gift for a young boy opens up a heartwarming tale of childhood and imagination. Through thick and thin, this story shows us how much care it takes to hold on to special friends, and how important it is to sometimes let those things go. With endearing costumes and unforgettable characters, the Velveteen Rabbit is presented by the Bright Star Touring Theatre. Based on the classic tale by Margery Williams Bianco, this show examines what it means to love and what it means to be real.



Ford LEGO Creators*

Grades 2-4

Wednesdays: March 26 **AND** April 30 4-5 p.m.

Bring your ideas and imagination to the Library to create a LEGO model, then share a short story about it. The Library will provide LEGO bricks for this program. Photographs of your inventions will be displayed in the Youth Services Department. Please register for one or both sessions.

Storytime Programs

March 17-April 25



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.



Read to a Therapaws Pet*

Recommended Grades K-2

Tuesdays: March 25 **OR** April 22 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Beginning or independent readers love to practice reading aloud to one of the pets from Hinsdale Humane Society's Therapaws Program because it's pressure-free! Each child will have a 10-minute time slot, which is allotted on a first-come, first-served basis and will be confirmed via email prior to the program. Due to the popularity of this program, we request that you register your child for one day only.



Thursday, March 27 6-7 p.m.

Create an art project together as a family in our new Family Art Night series! This season, we will paint rocks to decorate our gardens for spring. Be sure to dress for mess!



Let's Make It Rain!

Grades 2-4

Thursday, April 17 4-4:45 p.m.

April showers bring May flowers, so let's make it rain! We'll share a rain story, then we'll create our own rain stick instruments and embrace the season!



My Garden* Grades K-1

Thursday, May 1 4:30-5:15 p.m.

What would you grow if you had a garden of your very own? Join us for a reading of Kevin Henkes' book "My Garden" and use a variety of art supplies to create the garden of your dreams!



Wild & Wacky Family Fun Show*

Families Welcome!

Tuesday, April 15 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Let loose, have fun, and enjoy a laugh or two! This show may include everything from trivia to juggling and silly tricks to Simon Says, as well as dance challenges, heads or tails, individual and team challenges, The Crazy Wheel, and of course: prizes!

Display Your Collection!

Did you know you can show off your favorite things at the Library? If you have a special collection you are very proud of, we would love to see it! Some ideas and past displays have featured toys, books, art, trinkets, and treasures Collections are displayed near the front entrance for a month. Visit the Youth Services Desk or call us at (708)-246-0520 to sign up!

Evergreen Programs

March-May



Leprechaun's Alphabet Hunt

March 1-31

Leprechaun is hiding on the shelves! Find him and count his shamrocks each day to get a sticker from the Youth Services Desk.



Time for April Showers!

April 1-30

Your favorite book characters are staying dry under the umbrella! Find a new character each day to receive a sticker.



Froggy Loves Flowers!

May 1-31

Our friend Froggy loves spring flowers! Find him hiding in the department and report the color of his flower to 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:

- · Sunday, April 20 for Easter
- Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day

Board of Trustees Meeting Dates

The Board meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Spring 2025 dates: March 25, April 22, May 27

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Ted Bodewes, Library Director

Library Board of Trustees

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:

- Nintendo Switch
- LED Therapy Lamp
- GoPro Camera
- Travel Accessories
- Metal Detector
- 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: March 11, April 8, May 13 7:15 p.m.

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

Western Springs Writers' Society

Second & Fourth Thursdays: March 13, 27; April 19, 24; May 8, 22

7 p.m.

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

Every other Thursday: March 13, 27; April 10, 24; May 8, 22

1 p.m

Join us for knitting, conversation, and light refreshments.



you belong here