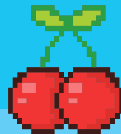
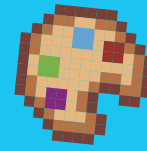




Thomas Ford  
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

# THE Ford *Connection*

SUMMER 2025



## LEVEL UP!



✦ AT THE LIBRARY ✦

*June 2 - July 31*

**Register for our gamified Summer Challenge full of puzzles and play!**

Youth patrons who sign up will receive special prizes all summer long as they participate in challenges that promote imagination, friendship, and fun! Sign up in-person at the Youth Services Desk. Prize distribution starts Monday, June 16 and ends Thursday, July 31.



Adult & Teen/Tween patrons who sign up in-person or online will receive a maze pen and a free cookie from Kirschbaum's. Read four books to earn a Thomas Ford branded mug or travel tumbler. Every book you read will also count toward our end-of-summer raffle!

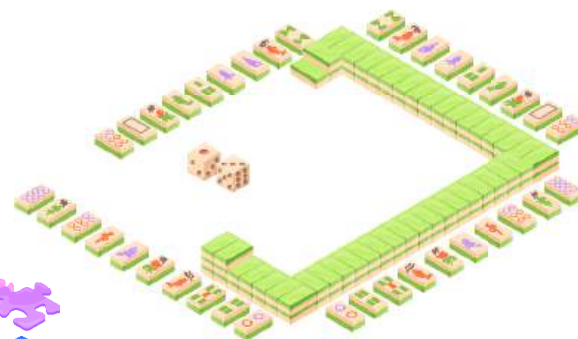
2025 Summer Reading is possible thanks to our signature sponsor, the Thomas Ford Library Foundation

800 Chestnut Street | [fordlibrary.org](http://fordlibrary.org) | (708) 246-0520



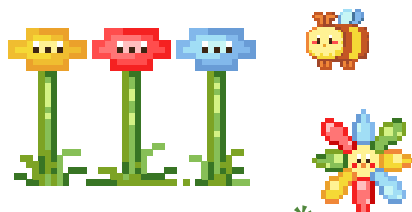
**Registration opens on Thursday, May 29 for all Adult programs.**  
Registration is required for all programs unless otherwise noted.  
Register online, in person, or by calling (708) 246-0520.

\* Registration required



### Puzzle & Board Game Swap

Monday, June 2 - Thursday, July 31  
Tired of completing the same puzzle or playing the same game? Swap out your gently used puzzle or board game for a new-to-you challenge all summer long at the Reference Desk!



### Pocket Pollinators\*

Thursday, June 5, 7-8:30 p.m.  
Join us for a presentation on small pollinator gardens and learn what is possible in Western Springs and the surrounding areas!



### Fraud Protection & Advocacy for Seniors\*

Tuesday, June 17, 10 a.m.  
Avoid consumer fraud and identity theft scams aimed at seniors by learning how to recognize potential fraud attempts. The Office of the Illinois Attorney General will explain what to look for, how to be ready to stop the scams, and when to reach out to the Senior Help Line for support.

### Mah Jongg Open Play\*

Friday, June 20, 2-3:30 p.m.  
Monday, July 14, 7-8:30 p.m.  
Thursday, August 7, 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.

### Farm to Table Appetizers\*

Wednesday, July 23, 7 p.m.  
Everything tastes better fresh from the farm stand! Chef Cherise Slattery will share garden fresh appetizers that are easy to prepare and delicious to eat. Recipes will include use of zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, corn, peppers, fresh herbs, and berries. Samples of Grilled Corn Crostini and Harvest Salsa will be served.

## EXPAND YOUR PALATE

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, register if you would like to receive the recording to watch on your own time!



### Summer Rolls & Dipping Sauces\*

Wednesday, June 11, 6:30 p.m.  
Make delicious dipping sauces to enjoy with a variety of fresh Vietnamese summer rolls featuring rice paper, crisp vegetables, herbs, and protein of your choice!



### Lavender & Honey\*

Wednesday, July 9, 6:30 p.m.  
Experience the delicate balance of floral and sweet as we explore these two enchanting flavors in both savory and sweet dishes.



### Summer Tapas\*

Wednesday, August 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Learn how to make Spanish-inspired appetizers featuring fresh, seasonal ingredients that are perfect for casual gatherings or a light summer meal.

## Spice of the Month

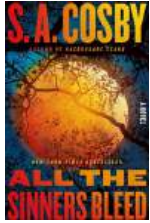
Spice up your life with a take-home kit that includes the necessary spice, a recipe to try, and some cookbook recommendations that feature relevant meals featuring each month's theme. While supplies last!

June 24: Mustard Seed  
July 29: Chai  
August 26: Garlic Powder

# books

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

7:30 p.m. start



Monday,  
July 28  
**All the Sinners Bleed**  
by S.A. Cosby  
*The Monday*  
*Murder Club Pick*



Monday,  
August 4  
**Downward to the Earth**  
by Robert Silverberg  
*Sci-Fi & Fantasy*  
*Book Club Pick*



Wednesday,  
August 13  
**The Hound of the Baskervilles**  
by Arthur Conan Doyle  
*The Village Read*



## Reader's Night In

Wednesday, June 4, 7:30-9 p.m.

Socialize with other readers and share your favorite titles or recent reads! Light refreshments will be provided.



## The Village Read

Wednesday, August 13, 7:30-9 p.m.

Great books bring people together. This summer, the Library is inviting the whole community to join Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson as they stalk the fog-shrouded moors of Devonshire on the trail of a spectral beast and a confounding family curse! Free copies of the book will be available starting Monday, June 2.

## The History of Sherlock Holmes\*

Monday, June 30, 7 p.m.

Sherlock Holmes has captured the imagination of readers all over the world since his creation by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Learn the true story of Sherlock Holmes, how he was created, and how he evolved throughout Doyle's stories from British expat John Gowing.

## Book BINGO\*

Tuesday, August 19, 7-8:30 p.m.

Enjoy the classic game of bingo with bookish prizes, including advanced reader copies of upcoming titles! Light refreshments will be provided.



## Oz: A Magical Murder Mystery\*

Wednesday, July 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Play one of eight beloved characters from the magical land of Oz as they embark on a heroic quest to solve the Wizard of Oz's murder and stop a growing evil within the kingdom! Character booklets will be available starting July 9. Costumes or props are encouraged, but not required. Light refreshments will be served.

## Mississippi River Adventures\*

Wednesday, August 20, 7 p.m.

Illinois traveler John Kokoris will share insider tips to help you explore the Upper Mississippi from Galena to St. Louis. Learn where to go, what to do, and all about the mighty river's storied past. Plus, John will discuss architecture, food, events, and more. Your Great River Road trip starts here!

# films

6 p.m. start

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



Thursday, June 12  
**The Hound of the Baskervilles**  
Dir. Terence Fisher  
1959, *Mystery*  
When a nobleman is threatened by a family curse on his newly inherited estate, detective Sherlock Holmes (Peter Cushing) is hired to investigate.



Thursday, July 10  
**The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes**  
Dir. Billy Wilder  
1970, *Mystery*  
Sherlock Holmes' (Robert Stephens) search for one woman's missing husband leads him to Loch Ness and its legendary monster.



Thursday, August 15  
**Mr. Holmes**  
Dir. Bill Condon  
2015, *Mystery*  
An aged, retired Sherlock Holmes (Ian McKellan) deals with dementia, visions, and fanfare as he tries to remember his final case.

# crafts

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

## Mini Cross Stitch\*

Monday, June 23, 7-8:30 p.m.  
Create a fun mini design to display in your home! This class is perfect for both new and experienced stitchers. All materials will be provided.

## DIY Wine Charms Kit

Tuesday, July 15  
Repurpose old playing cards into cute wine glass tags! All you need is a paint brush. Kits available while supplies last.

## Second Chance Crafts\*

Friday, July 18 - Monday, July 28  
Missed a craft program? Sign up for a kit based on a previous craft! Everyone who registers will be guaranteed a kit at the Reference Desk. Choice of kit will be first come, first serve.

## Paint & Sip\*

Monday, August 11, 7-8:30 p.m.  
Create an original painting in this instructor-led art class! All materials and a non-alcoholic beverage will be provided.



Registration opens on **Thursday, May 29** 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.

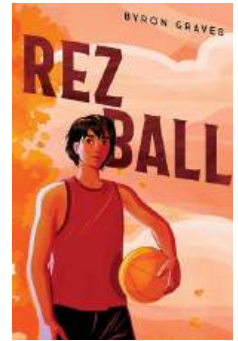
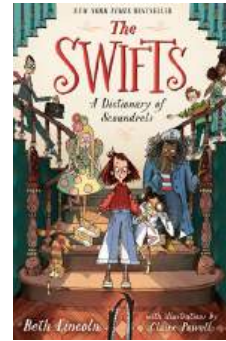
\* Registration required

# Grades 5–8 LIBRARY Battle of the Books

**Registration: June 2–30**

**Competition: Wednesday, July 30, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.  
at La Grange Park Public Library**

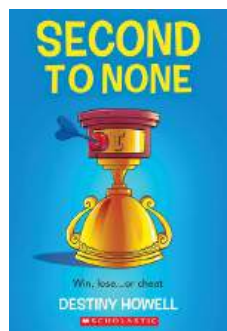
Join us for the sixth annual Library Battle of the Books between the La Grange, La Grange Park, Linda Sokol Francis Brookfield, and Thomas Ford Memorial libraries! Register at your preferred library, and we will place you in a team of 5. If you want to make sure you're placed in a team with friends, include a team name in parentheses after your name. Register, read the books shown here before July 30, then compete against your peers!



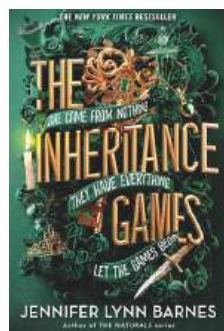
## Tween Book Club\*

Select Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.

Join us for fun bookish talk and pizza! Copies of each book are available one month before the discussion at the Circulation Desk.



Thursday, June 5  
**Second to None**  
by Destiny Howell



Thursday, August 14  
**The Inheritance Games**  
by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

## Giant Puzzle Art

Monday, June 2 – Thursday, July 31

Help us create a work of public art, piece by piece! Decorate a blank puzzle piece with markers, stickers, and other embellishments. Leave your contribution in the Teen/Tween Room and watch as our artwork is assembled together!

## Teen Board

Third Thursdays: June 19, July 17, August 21, 7–8 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.

## Minecraft Torch Kit

Monday, June 23

Make your own Minecraft torch to light your way in the darkness! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

## Pokeball Pillow Kit

Wednesday, July 2

Sew your own plush felt Pokeball! No experience necessary. Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

## DIY Chocolates\*

Monday, July 7, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

Become amateur chocolatiers with us! Make your own sweet confections with a variety of mix-ins and types of chocolate.

## Among Us Cookie\* Decorating Kit

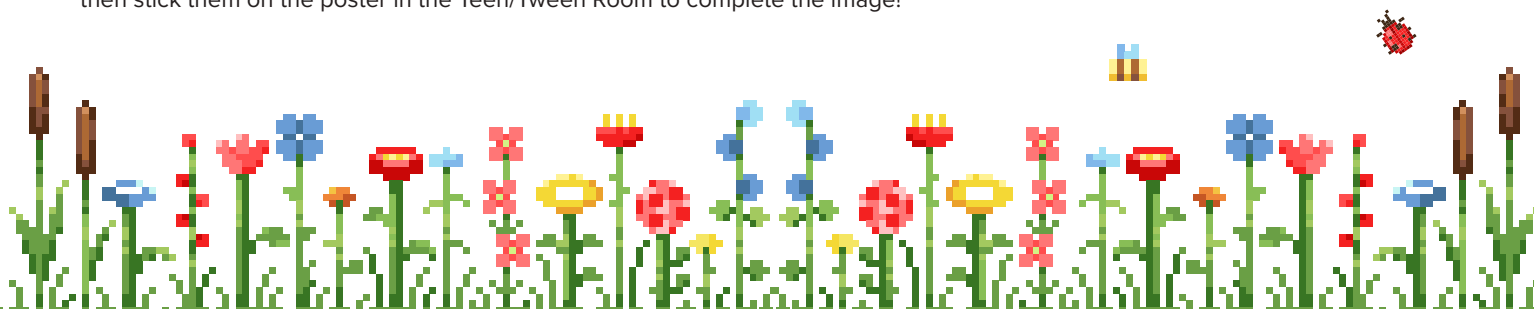
Friday, August 8

Imposter or not, these Among Us cookies are sure to be tasty! Decorate then enjoy your yummy sugar cookie. Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

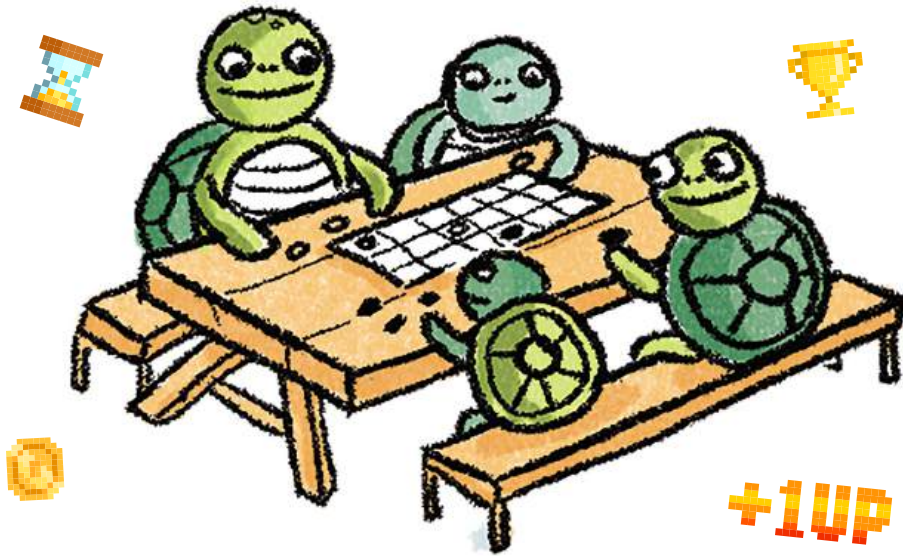
## Pixel Art

Monday, June 2 – Thursday, July 31

What's the picture? Come to the Library and help us find out! Get a set of pixel stickers, then stick them on the poster in the Teen/Tween Room to complete the image!



# FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!



## ➔ LEGO's on the Loose

Monday, June 2 - Thursday, July 31

Beloved characters (in LEGO form) have escaped from their books, and we need your help finding them! Pick up a scavenger hunt booklet from the Library, and explore Western Springs to match the character to its hiding location. Return it to the Reference Desk for the chance to win a special Thomas Ford puzzle.



## ➔ Puzzle Competition\*

Wednesday, June 18, 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
Gather your team and compete for the title of fastest puzzlers! Teams of 2-4 will be completing the same 500 piece puzzle. Open to families, adults, and teens/tweens. Pizza will be served.

## ➔ Locked in the Library: Oregon Trail\*

Adults & Families: Thursday, June 26  
Teens & Tweens: Friday, June 27  
5-8 p.m.

Ford the river on a nostalgic trip to Oregon and complete puzzles along your journey. Will your team survive snake bites and dysentery? Sign up to find out! 20-minute time slots are available for up to 6 people, and the puzzles are intended for grades 5 through adults.

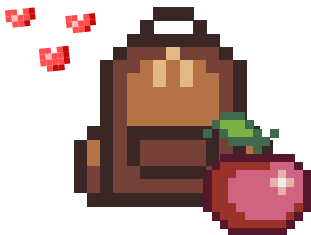
# Nintendo Switch FRIDAYS



## Open Play\*

Friday, June 13, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Join us for multi-player fun and choose which games to play! Snacks will be provided.



## Back to School Care Packages

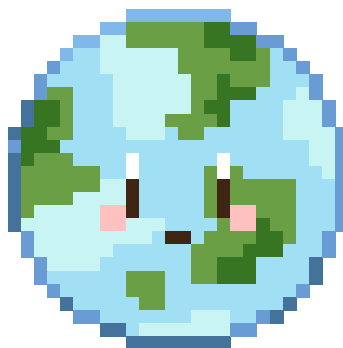
Friday, August 15

It's time to head back to school! We've got you covered with goodies to guarantee a great first week. Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

## Puyo Puyo Tetris\*

Friday, July 25, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

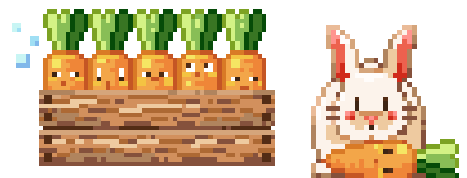
Compete against your friends in a party puzzle game that combines elements of the beloved classics Tetris and Puyo Puyo. Snacks will be provided.



## Super Smash Bros Tournament\*

Friday, August 29, 3:45-5 p.m.

Test your Super Smash Bros skills in our tournament! Snacks will be provided.



## DIY Pet Puzzles\*

Monday, August 18, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Pets love puzzles too! Design an enrichment toy for your cat or dog using everyday household items, then stock it with their favorite treats.



**Registration is required for ALL programs unless otherwise noted.**

Storytime Registration begins on Friday, May 30 at 9:30 a.m.

for Lapsit, Toddler Time, and Preschool Pals only.

For all other programs: Youth Program Registration begins on Monday, June 2 at 9:30 a.m.

Have your library card ready to register at [fordlibrary.org](http://fordlibrary.org), in person, or by calling (708) 246-0520. First preference will be given to Western Springs residents.

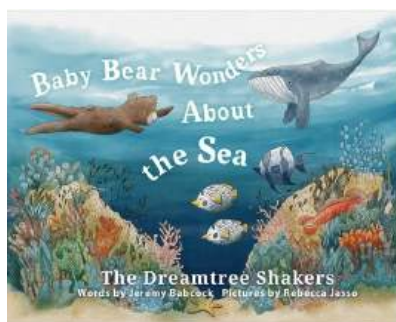
\* Registration required

## Picture Book Club\*

Grades K-1

Wednesdays: June 11 AND/OR July 16, 4-4:45 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.



## Baby Bear Wonders About the Sea\*

Families Welcome!

Wednesday, June 18, 2-2:45 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon of adventure and inspiration! Chicago-area folk-pop band The Dreamtree Shakers will be at the Library to celebrate their new album and illustrated book full of fun and vibrant "songs you can see." Books will be available for purchase and signing after the show.



## LEGO Family Night\*

Families Welcome!

Thursday, June 19, 6-7 p.m.

Families of LEGO enthusiasts are invited to join us 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 Candyland Adventure\*

Families Welcome!

Friday, June 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Join us for an after-hours game of Candyland to kick off 2025's theme of Level Up at Your Library! We'll play a life-size version of the classic game around the building, earning candy as we go, and end the night with a sweet craft in the Program Room.

## Building Games Petting Zoo\*

Grades 1-4

Tuesday, June 24, 1-1:45 p.m.

Join us to try different building games, including LEGO Bricks, Lincoln Logs, Jenga, and others. You might just find a new favorite!



## Super Strangely Familiar Character Brawl\*

Grades 1-4

Wednesday, June 25, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Don't miss this unique cartooning class with Mark from Andertoons! We'll draw new brawlers based on popular characters, like Mustache Plumber, Kong Donkey, Peak Achoo, Duchess Dragon Fruit, and more!

# Storytimes

June 9-20

&

July 14-25



## 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.

## Family Art Night: Tissue Paper Murals\*

*Families Welcome!*

Thursday, June 26, 6-7 p.m.

Create an art project together in our new Family Art Night series! This season, we will draw a picture and color it in with tissue paper squares. Be sure to dress for mess!



## Under the Stars\*

*Families Welcome!*

Tuesday, July 1, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

Join Spark the Firefly and her friends for a summer night in Firefly Grove! We'll gather around the campfire to sing songs, listen to stories, and watch the stars with puppets and interactive movement. The show is ideal for ages 2-7 but has something for all ages to enjoy!

## Play with Rigamajig\*

*Grades 1-4*

Tuesday, July 8, 2-2:45 p.m.

Explore our Rigamajig set! Find your building calling, challenge yourself, and get creative through collaborative hands-on play.



## Read & Create: Ursula Upside Down\*

*Grades K-1*

Wednesday, July 9, 10-10:45 a.m.

Listen as we read Corey Tabor's "Ursula Upside Down" and create a paper plate fish craft to take home!



## Family Movie Night: Wreck It Ralph\*

*Families Welcome!*

Tuesday, July 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

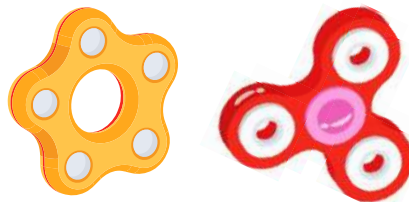
Travel with Ralph through the arcade as he tries to prove he can be a hero! Bring your blankets to enjoy this film on the big screen in our Program Room. Popcorn will be served.

## Read to a Therapaws Pet\*

*Recommended Grades K-3*

Tuesdays: June 24 OR July 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. This program is courtesy of Hinsdale Humane Society and subject to availability of pets.



## Fidgets & Widgets\*

*Grades 2-4*

Tuesday, July 29, 1-2 p.m.

Join us for one hour of fidget-making then take your creations home for hours more of fidgety fun!

## Juggling Funny Stories\*

*Families Welcome!*

Wednesday, July 30  
10:30-11:15 a.m.

Full of energy, humor, and imagination, Storytelling World Award-winning entertainer Chris Fascione will join us for a performance that features his unique combination of acting, storytelling, comedy, and juggling. This special interactive show will make you laugh out loud and bring out the kid in everyone!

# Evergreen Programs

June-August



## Favorite Games Scavenger Hunt

June 1-30

Our Level Up friend, Gordon, is hiding on the shelves. Find his Game of the Day to get a sticker from the Youth Services Desk!

## BINGO Challenge

June 1 - July 31

Search the Youth Services department to find the items on your BINGO card. Bring your completed card to the Youth Services desk to earn a sticker!

## Guessing Jar

June 9 - July 26

Stop by the Youth Services Desk to be adventurous and try the guessing jar! A winner with the closest guess will get a prize each week.

## Where is Gordon? Scavenger Hunt

July 1-31

Gordon is learning to read! Find him in the shelves and tell us which letter he is holding to earn a sticker.

## Danny the Dump Truck Scavenger Hunt

August 1-31

Danny the Dump Truck will be hiding somewhere in the Youth Services Department. Tell us what he is carrying and win a prize!

## 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  
CLOSED during summer

### Library Closings

The Library will be closed on Sundays during summer starting Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, as well as the following dates:

- Monday, May 26 for Memorial Day
- Friday, July 4 for Independence Day
- Friday, August 22 for Staff In-Service
- Monday, September 1 for Labor Day

### Board of Trustees Meeting Dates

The Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.  
Summer 2025 dates: June 24, July 22, August 26

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Ted Bodewes, Library Director

### Library Board of Trustees

Jean Carroll, President: [jeancarroll@fordlibrary.org](mailto:jeancarroll@fordlibrary.org)  
Daniel Montgomery, Treasurer: [danielmontgomery@fordlibrary.org](mailto:danielmontgomery@fordlibrary.org)  
Stephen Baker, Secretary: [stephenbaker@fordlibrary.org](mailto:stephenbaker@fordlibrary.org)  
Vincent Donnelly: [vincentdonnelly@fordlibrary.org](mailto:vincentdonnelly@fordlibrary.org)  
Adam Fuelleman: [adamfuelleman@fordlibrary.org](mailto:adamfuelleman@fordlibrary.org)  
Gail Graziani: [gailgraziani@fordlibrary.org](mailto:gailgraziani@fordlibrary.org)  
Karen Hendrick: [karenhendrick@fordlibrary.org](mailto:karenhendrick@fordlibrary.org)

## 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: June 10, July 8,  
August 12  
7:15 p.m.

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

### Western Springs Writers' Society

Second & Fourth Thursdays: June 12, 26;  
July 10, 24; August 14, 28  
7 p.m.

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

### Knitting Circle

Every other Thursday: June 5, 19;  
July 3, 17, 31; August 14, 28  
1 p.m.

Join us for knitting, conversation, and light refreshments.



you  
*belong*  
here