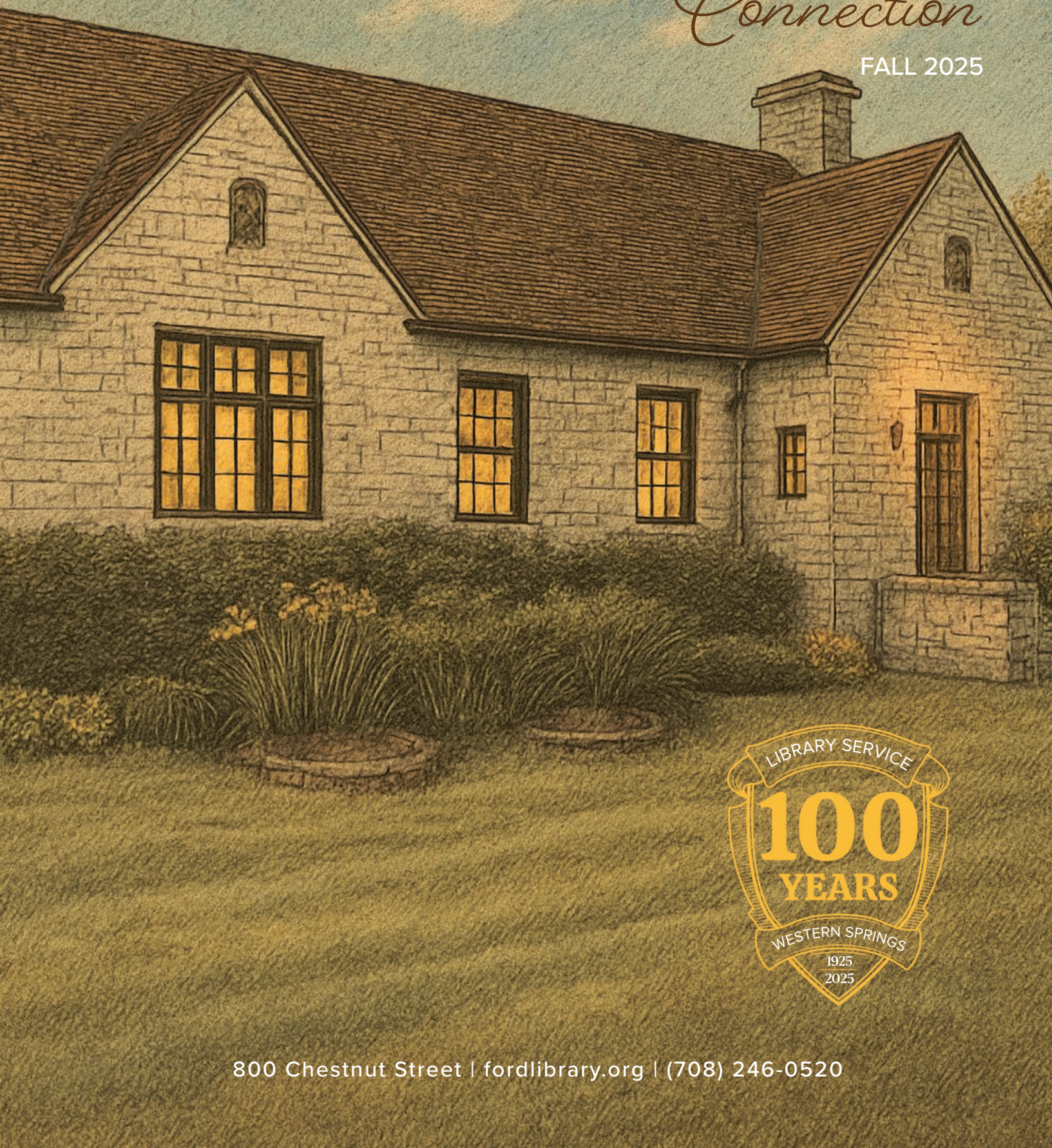




Thomas Ford
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

THE
Ford
Connection

FALL 2025



800 Chestnut Street | fordlibrary.org | (708) 246-0520

Registration opens on Friday, August 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

Mah Jongg Open Play*

Tuesday, September 9, 2-3:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 9, 2-3:30 p.m.

Monday, November 17, 7-8:30 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.

Putting the Garden to Bed*

Monday, September 22, 7 p.m.

Prepare your garden for winter with this helpful program by Sharon Yiesla Horticulture Services that covers everything from annual flower beds to lawns to tree and shrub care to ensure a successful spring next year.

Traditional Churros*

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

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Chef Violeta Trujeque, owner of Violet Velvet Cooking Classes. The Veracruz, Mexico native will demonstrate how to prepare this beloved sweet treat, along with a spicy chocolate and vanilla dip. Samples will be provided!



**Special
Virtual
Programs**



100 Years of Library Service in Western Springs*

Thursday, October 2, 7 p.m.

In 1925, the residents of Western Springs voted to establish a free public library. A lot has happened since then! Join Library Director Ted Bodewes for a special presentation on the fascinating history of our Library.



Introduction to Tarot Cards*

Wednesday, October 15, 7 p.m.

Learn the basics of tarot in a fun, positive way with professional psychic and tarot reader Barbara Meyer. Barbara will talk about the history of tarot, the theory of card reading, and dispel myths about the practice.

Fraud Protection & Advocacy for Seniors*

Tuesday, November 4, 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.

Meet the Author: Robert Patrick Conlon*

Thursday, October 16, 7 p.m.

Local author Robert Patrick Conlon joins us to celebrate his debut book "Celtic Knot: An Orphan's Tale of Survival, Family, and Love in Chicago." The historical novel follows eight-year-old Tim, an orphan on the rough and tumble streets of Chicago in 1885. Robert will discuss the true story about his grandfather that inspired the novel and his experience writing, researching, and publishing his first title.

Navigating Grief During the Holidays*

Wednesday, November 12, 7 p.m.

Join us for a compassionate and supportive presentation on understanding and managing grief during the holidays. Michelle Halm, founder of Grief Connection Space, will explore the emotional impact of holiday experiences and offer practical strategies to help you care for yourself while honoring a loved one.

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. View full program details at fordlibrary.org.



Finding the Clues: Then & Now with Steve Burns*

Tuesday, September 16, 7 p.m.

A nostalgic and intimate conversation with Emmy-nominated actor best known as 'Steve' from the beloved Nickelodeon show Blue's Clues.



Beyond the Screen: A "Wicked" Conversation with Marissa Bode*

Tuesday, October 21, 7 p.m.

The actress shares the stories, insights, and inspiration that led to her debut in the Academy Award-winning film.



Kenji López-Alt: A Journey Through Food & Science*

Tuesday, November 18, 7 p.m.

The New York Times columnist and bestselling author of the James Beard award-winning book "The Food Lab" talks all things career and cooking.

books

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

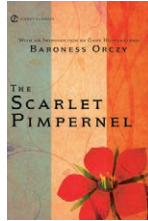
7:30 p.m. start

The Monday Murder Club Pick

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Club Pick



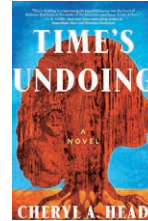
Monday,
October 1
The Ride of Her Life
by Elizabeth Letts



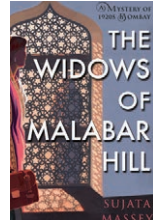
Monday,
October 27
The Scarlet Pimpernel
by Baroness Emmuska Orczy



Monday,
November 3
The Day of the Triffids
by John Wyndham



Monday,
November 5
Time's Undoing
by Cheryl A. Head



Wednesday,
December 3
The Widows of Malabar Hill
by Sujata Massey

films

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

6 p.m. start



Thursday, September 11
I'm Still Here*
2024, Mystery
A woman married to a former politician during the military dictatorship in Brazil is forced to reinvent herself and chart a new course for her family after a violent and arbitrary act.



Thursday, October 9
Banned Together*
2025, Documentary
Celebrate the freedom to read during Banned Books Week with the first feature documentary about fighting book bans and censorship in the U.S.



Thursday, November 13
A Real Pain*
2024, Comedy/Drama
Mismatched cousins reunite for a tour through Poland to honor their beloved grandmother, but their old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history.

crafts

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

Cork Grapes Craft*

Monday, September 15
7-8:30 p.m.
Upcycle wine corks to make a pair of adorable grape bunches. All materials will be provided.

Mandala Coasters*

Monday, October 6
7-8:30 p.m.
Using paint, create a set of coasters decorated with geometric circular designs. All materials will be provided.

Tea Cup Candle Kits

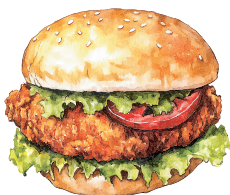
Thursday, October 23
Create your very own tea-cup candle using shredded wax, upcycled tea cups, and crayon bits. Pick-up begins October 23. While supplies last.

Ombre Pine Cones*

Monday, November 10
7-8:30 p.m.
Design simple yet elegant pine cone decorations perfect for fall. All materials will be provided.

food

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!



Hearty Handhelds*

Wednesday, September 17, 6:30 p.m.
Cozy nights in and game-day weekends call for crave-worthy sandwiches! Join us to master Nashville Hot Chicken, a classic Patty Melt, and a bold Cuban Sandwich.



Harvest Crisps & Casseroles*

Wednesday, October 15, 6:30 p.m.
Celebrate the harvest season with two comforting recipes full of rich fall flavors: a creamy squash gratin, and a spiced pear and cranberry crisp.



Fall Flavors Reimagined*

Wednesday, November 19, 6:30 p.m.
Experience your favorite indulgent desserts with a unique twist this autumn by making Apple Pie Tiramisu and Dulce de Leche Pumpkin Pie!

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!

September 30: Pumpkin Spice
October 28: Caraway Seeds
November 25: Bay Leaves

Registration opens on Friday, August 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



Sharpie Art*

Wednesday, September 10
3:45–4:45 p.m.

Create something beautiful in a new and unconventional way! We'll use sharpies and rubbing alcohol on a canvas to swirl colors together for a one-of-a-kind art piece.

Teen Board

Third Thursdays: September 18,
October 16, November 20
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.

Caramel Apple Kit

Tuesday, September 23

Make your own delicious caramel apple for dessert at home! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

Nintendo Switch FRIDAYS

Open Play*

Friday, September 5, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

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

College Planning Webinar*

Monday, September 29, 7–8 p.m.

Conquer college with this helpful guide focused on the revamped ACT/SAT, how to stand out, and smart strategies to boost acceptance and scholarship success.



Tween Book Club*

Thursday, October 2, 7–8 p.m.

Join us for bookish talk and dessert as we discuss "The Bellwoods Game" by Celia Krampien. Copies of the book are available one month before the discussion at the Circulation Desk.

Paper Airplane Competition*

Wednesday, October 8

3:45–4:45 p.m.

Pick a design and test your airplane folding skills to see whose plane flies the furthest!



Baron: Fur is Gonna Fly*

Friday, October 3, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

Get ready for an airborne adventure! Choose your fighter, then battle other animal pilots in this fun multiplayer game. Snacks will be provided!



Teen Board Hosts: Sharing Stories of Equity & Belonging*

Thursday, October 16, 7–8 p.m.

Participate in story circles and create a community art project to promote understanding and belonging. This community event will be led by LTHS members of the Student Equity and Belonging Committee, LT Equity Ambassadors, and Dr. Jennifer Rowe, The Director of Equity and Belonging.

Ghost Polymer Clay Kit

Wednesday, October 22

Sculpt an adorable spooky companion to decorate (or haunt) your room! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

T-Shirt Tote Bag Kit

Tuesday, November 4

Repurpose a t-shirt to make a unique and useful tote bag! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

Pumpkin Pie Parfait*

Wednesday, November 12

3:45–4:45 p.m.

Whip up some yummy parfaits with us for a perfect fall treat!

Book Turkey Kit

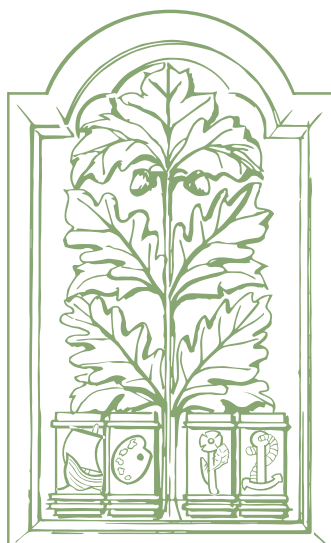
Friday, November 21

Transform an old book into a festive and friendly decoration for Thanksgiving! Available in the Teen/Tween Room. While supplies last.

Mario Kart Tournament*

Friday, November 7, 3:45–5 p.m.

Test your driving skills in our Mario Kart tournament! Snacks will be provided.



Celebrating 30 Years of the Library Foundation in 2025

The strong, generous response to the Library Foundation's 2024 Annual Appeal once again showed how much the residents of Western Springs value the Thomas Ford Memorial Library.

Your gifts enabled us to fund this year's Summer Library Challenge, including programs such as The Village Read, prizes, and activities for children, adults, and teens. We hope you participated and had fun while discovering all the resources our Library has to offer!

2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the Library Foundation's establishment. Soon, the 2025 Appeal will arrive in the mailboxes of Western Springs residents and businesses. Please consider donating by check or online at fordlibrary.org this fall. Your gift enables us to provide for our Library's future. Thank you for your support!



Thank you to the sponsors of our
2025 Summer Library Challenge!



THOMAS FORD
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION



Registration is required for ALL programs unless otherwise noted.

Storytime Registration begins on Tuesday, September 2 at 9:30 a.m.

for Lapsit, Toddler Time, and Preschool Pals only.

For all other programs: Youth Program Registration begins on Wednesday, September 3 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: Back to School*

Grades PreK-1

Thursday, September 11
4-4:45 p.m.

Join us for a reading of Chris Van Dusen's "If I Built a School" followed by a school bus craft to take home! Caregivers, please bring a small close-up photo of your child's face to add to our craft.



The Adventure of the Missing Color*

Families Welcome!

Monday, September 22
4-4:45 p.m.

Discover how fun and colorful science can be through hands-on experiments all about chemical reactions, air pressure, physical explosions, and more. Led by the Science Heroes, this exciting and interactive STEM learning experience is full of surprises and open to all ages!



Family Art Night: Fall Stamp Art*

Families Welcome!

Thursday, September 25
6-7 p.m.

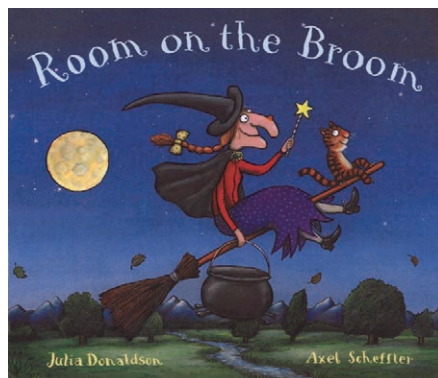
Create an art project together as a family in our Family Art Night series! This season, we will use different fall objects to make a stamp art collage. Be sure to dress for mess!

LEGO Family Night*

Families Welcome!

Thursdays: September 18
AND November 20
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.



Read & Create: Room on the Broom*

Grades PreK-1

Thursday, October 9
4-4:45 p.m.

Join us for a reading of Julia Donaldson's "Room on the Broom," followed by a jack-o-lantern collage craft to take home!

Storytimes

September 15-October 24



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.

Ford LEGO Creators*

Grades 2-4

Wednesday, October 15

4-4:45 p.m.

Nurture your child's imagination in this workshop full of wonder! Using a variety of art materials, children will use their knowledge of legends from all around the world to invent their own stories and design unique, one-of-a-kind creatures.



Autumn Art*

Grades 2-4

Wednesday, October 22

4-4:45 p.m.

Bring the beauty of the season inside with an art project using colorful fall leaves!



Fantastic Tales: My Creatures*

Grades K-4

Wednesday, October 29

4-5 p.m.

Nurture your child's imagination in this workshop full of wonder! Using a variety of art materials, children will use their knowledge of legends from all around the world to invent their own stories and design unique, one-of-a-kind creatures.

Fidgets & Widgets*

Grades 2-4

Wednesday, November 5

4-5 p.m.

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



Read & Create: Acorn Was A Little Wild*

Grades PreK-1

Thursday, November 6

4-4:45 p.m.

Join us for a reading of Jen Arena's "Acorn Was a Little Wild." Afterwards, we will create a tissue paper acorn picture to take home.



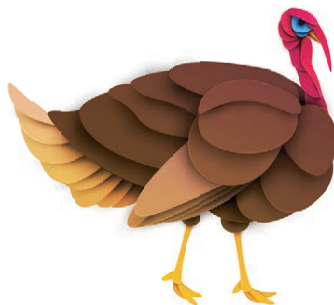
Bug & Reptile Show*

Families Welcome!

Thursday, November 13

4-5 p.m.

Learn about cool creatures from around the world in this interactive, educational experience! Presented by educator Colin from Crosstown Exotics, participants will also get the chance to touch and hold animals in a safe, hands-on environment.



Thanksgiving Celebration*

Families Welcome!

Wednesday, November 19

4-4:45 p.m.

Celebrate the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday with a party at the Library! We will read stories, play Freeze Dance, and finish with a turkey craft.

Evergreen Programs

September–November



BINGO Challenge

September 2 – November 30

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!



Clifford Scavenger Hunt

September 1-30

Clifford the Big Red Dog is hiding in the Youth Services Department. Tell us how many bones he has to earn a sticker!



Trick-or-Treat Scavenger Hunt

October 1-31

During the month of October, there's a jack-o-lantern hiding in the Youth Services Department! Find it and tell us what treat it holds to earn a sticker.



DINovember Scavenger Hunt

November 1-30

Fall means there's a dinosaur back in the stacks! Find it in the Youth Services Department and tell us the color of its egg 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 the following dates:
• Monday, September 1 for Labor Day
• Thursday, November 27 for Thanksgiving

Board of Trustees Meeting Dates

The Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
Fall 2025 dates: September 23, October 28, November 25

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Gail Graziani: gailgraziani@fordlibrary.org
Karen Hendrick: 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: September 9,
October 14, November 11
7:15 p.m.

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

Western Springs Writers' Society

Second & Fourth Thursdays: September 11, 25;
October 9, 23; November 13
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: September 11,
25; October 9, 23; November 6, 20
1 p.m.

Join us for knitting, conversation, and light refreshments.



you
belong
here