



Thomas Ford
MEMORIAL LIBRARY

THE
Ford
Connection
SPRING 2026

Explore Your Environment

New and exciting things are all around us, right here in Western Springs!

Meet Our Fluffy New Friend

Oakley the Squirrel wandered over to Thomas Ford one day and made the Library his new home. Stop by the Youth Services Department to see if you can find him!



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

Registration opens on Friday, February 27 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

Intro to Mah Jongg*

Thursday, March 5, 2-3:30 p.m.

Interested in learning about American Mah Jongg and how to play? Join this instructional program where tiles and cards will be provided and participants will learn how to set up and play the game. No experience necessary!

Mah Jongg Meet-Up Play*

Thursday, March 12, 2-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21, 2-3:30 p.m.

Monday, May 4, 7-8:30 p.m.

Join our Mah Jongg group for a relaxed setting to play! Knowledge of the game or prior experience required. 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.



Plan Your Camping Trip*

Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m.

Learn how to plan a fun and memorable adventure at one of the many federal and state campgrounds available across the country! We'll share planning tips including recommended resources, daily checklists, and the ins-and-outs of using tents and trailers during your journey.

Debating Independence: The American Revolution in 1776*

Thursday, March 26, 7 p.m.

In January 1776, many Americans thought independence was a terrible idea. It seemed impossible that 13 weak, far-flung colonies could become a nation. Yet just a few months later, those same Americans believed independence was worth fighting for. How did popular opinion change so fast? Historian Joyce Haworth has the story of the blunders of a king, the persuasiveness of an essay, and the destruction of warfare.

Dungeons & Dragons 101*

Saturday, April 25, 2-3:30 p.m.

Join D&D master Steve Hurovitz for a fun introduction to this popular role-playing game! You'll learn about its history, game basics, and how to quickly start exploring new worlds and battling monsters. The session includes a mini game for hands-on participation.



Spring Migration Bird Walk*

Tuesday, April 28, 10 a.m.

Springtime is most birders' favorite time of year in the Chicago area. To make the most of the season, an expert birder will guide us through Bemis Woods to look for a variety of migrant and resident birds and answer any bird-related questions!



Qigong & Sound Meditation*

Tuesday, May 5, 10 a.m.

Reduce stress and calm your mind and body with a combination of qigong and beautiful sounds. This beginner friendly workshop will teach you a series of slow flowing movements and deep measured breathing that can be done while in a chair or standing, and ends with soothing sounds from crystal singing bowls, chimes, and other sound instruments.



History of Musicals*

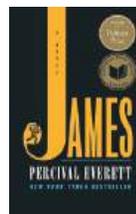
Wednesday, May 27, 7 p.m.

From Broadway to the big screen, musicals have captivated and inspired audiences worldwide. Join Faye Levin-O'Leary as they take us through the evolution and impact of musicals, the influence of Vaudeville, and today's modern hits.



Special Virtual Programs

The following events are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present. Please contact the Library for any questions or accommodations. View full program details at fordlibrary.org.



Beyond the Page with Percival Everett*

Thursday, March 19, 7 p.m.

Get a glimpse beyond the page with the industrious and irreverent author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, James.



Cristina Henriquez: Voice, Culture, and Human Connection*

Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m.

Explore the history and adversity of Panama with the bestselling author of The Great Divide.



Babel-On with R.F. Kuang*

Tuesday, May 19, 7 p.m.

Join the genre-bending author of Katabasis as she shares how she combines history, magic, and satire in her work.

books

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

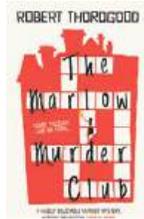
7:30 p.m. start

The Monday Murder Club Pick

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Book Club Pick



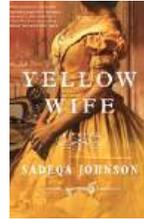
Wednesday, April 1
The Girls
John Bowen



Monday, April 27
Marlow Murder Club
Robert Thorogood



Monday, May 4
Contact
Carl Sagan



Wednesday, May 6
Yellow Wife
Sadeqa Johnson

Book BINGO*

Wednesday, April 8, 7 p.m.

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

Free Comic Book Day

Saturday, May 2

Visit the Library to get a free comic book! Comics provided by Blerds Underground in La Grange. All ages welcome.

films

6 p.m. start

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



Thursday, March 12 *
Wicked: For Good
2025, Fantasy

Based on the Broadway musical, the final chapter about the witches of Oz begins with Elphaba and Glinda estranged, living with the consequences of their choices.



Thursday, April 9 *
One Battle After Another
2025, Drama

When their evil enemy resurfaces after 16 years, a group of ex-revolutionaries reunite to rescue the daughter of one of their own.



Thursday, May 14 *
Hamnet
2025, Drama

After losing their son to the plague, Agnes and William Shakespeare grapple with grief in 16th-century England and find strength to care for their surviving children.

crafts

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



Forever Florals*

Monday, March 9, 7-8:30 p.m.

Using tissue paper and other materials, we'll create a bouquet that won't wither with age!



Macrame Key Chain Kit

Thursday, April 23

Pick up a kit to create a woven keychain using the art of macrame. Instructions provided. While supplies last.



Bird House Craft*

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

Decorate a bird house perfect for avian visitors this spring! All materials will be provided, but paint will be used, so please dress accordingly.



Bedazzle a Book*

Monday, May 11, 7-8:30 p.m.

Bring your own book (or choose a gently used one at the program) to bedazzle the cover! Materials will be provided, but we welcome any diamond painting supplies from home.

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!

Thai Harmony*

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.

Discover the blend of sweet, salty, sour, and spicy with dishes like Thai Basil Chicken with Coconut-Lime Jasmine Rice and a refreshing Mango Sticky Rice for dessert.

Pasta e Dolce*

Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 p.m.

Learn to create Lemon Ricotta Ravioli with Spring Pea Sauce and Lemon Mascarpone Cups in the spirit of the Italian philosophy "la dolce vit" savoring life's simple, delicious pleasures.

French Flavors for Spring*

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

Experience the sun-soaked flavors of the Mediterranean with a series of vibrant, healthy dishes packed with fresh herbs, bold spices, and zesty ingredients.

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 31: Cream of Tartar
April 28: Pine Nuts
May 26: Chia Seeds



THOMAS FORD LIBRARY FOUNDATION

We are very grateful for the generosity of the donors listed below. The robust response to the 2025 Annual Appeal indicates the importance of the Library in our community and enables the Foundation to provide financial support for future Library projects. Thank you!

Paul & Mary Altman	George & Shirley Graves	Edward Neafsey
Gregg W. Anderson & Family	Graziano Family	Keith Newton
Marie & Robert Anderson in honor of WS Writers Society	Robert & Virginia Grecco	Thomas Oczkowski
Mary Jane Anthony	Mary & Steve Greska	Josh & Jacquie Odelson
Andrew & Brooke Ariens	John Grissim	Lynn & Bob Odgers
Bob & Mary Anne Barnes in honor of Leslie Karas	Taylor Groesbeck	Brian & Ellen Oeltgen
William & Joan Binder	Anita & Gerald Gustis	Jim Ols & Mamie Yee
Lawrence Bloom	Susan Morrow & Todd Halamka in honor of Leslie Karas	Barbara & Tom Pfendler
Steve & Nicole Brandstedt in memory of Jeanette Brandstedt	Thomas & Sheila Hansen	Daniel & Caroyin Pihera
Mr. & Mrs. James Brinkman	Paula & James Hellige	Mary Pirman in memory of Margaret Pirman
Mary Brown	Rose & Jim Horvath	Joe Podlewski & Heidi Hanson
Marcia Buell	Celia Hunt	Ray & Nancy Powers in honor of Elizabeth Burns
Robert & Debra Bularzik	Mark & Linda Hussey	Anne & John Purdy
Mary & Bill Burke	Kay Johnson in memory of John I. Johnson	Gwen Quackenbush in honor of Anne Kozak & Liz Burns
Capone Family	Karin & Tim Janowski	Mary Jo & Jack Ramm
Tim & Emily Carter	Tom & Judy Josefek	David & Megan Reyna
Jim & Amy Casey	Bernard & Mary Ann Kadow	Jim & Beth Reynolds
John T Conroy Jr	Harry & Karen Kannry	Jim & Suzanne Rielly
Richard Coppola	Leslie & Paul Karas	Ara N. Robinson
Marie Cote	Kay & Tom Kelly	Mark Schilling
Bob & Linda Daman	John & Susan Kienzle	Paul & Kristie Scriba
Peter & Barbara De Berge	Donald & Joan Kittler	Warren & Mary Lou Sejud
Christine DeMaria	Mary Lee & Jim Larsen	Mary Shafer in memory of Robert Shafer
Jodie Distler-Hanzlik	Tyler Levinsky	Terry & Kerry Sheehan
Mary Ann Duda	Mary Clare Loftus in memory of Dr Gerald Loftus	Taunye Sirkj in honor of Wayne Kennedy
Jean Dukes	Lisa Lopez & Robert Konold	Katherine Spelman
Daniel & Wendy Duquette	Charles Macke	Gene Stall
Mike & Sue Durkin in honor of Library Staff	Mary Kay Malas & Tom Davy	Stephanie Stomberg in memory of Virginia Rockford
John & Fran Dzuryak	Patricia & Mark Manetti in honor of Library Staff	Tom & Beth Sullivan
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Randy & Joyce Ferrari	Terry & Carolyn McNealy	Charlie & Terri Thomas in honor of Anne Kozak
Catherine & Woody Forns	William & Gayle Merritt	Paul & Eva Thomas
Fuelleman Family	Dejan Micic	Randy & Margi Truckenbrodt
Virginia Gannon in memory of John T. Gannon	Michael & Jaynellen Mikulski	Anne Valentin in memory of Richard Valentin
Chris Gavlin	Joanne Miller	David Vick
Giering Family in memory of Bruce Harken	Lori Mitchell & Scott Edwards	Ann & Tim Weithers
Andrew & Ann Gore	Dan & Marilyn Montgomery	Nancy Wilson
Jeff & Kersten Gorski	Mr. & Mrs. John Mulvaney	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Winans in honor of Library Staff
Karen & Joseph Goyer	Lisa Mungai	Elizabeth & L.D. Woodhull
Carol & Robert Graf	Linda & Win Murray	Geraldine Woods in honor of Pat Woods

This Season's Special Message from our Library Director

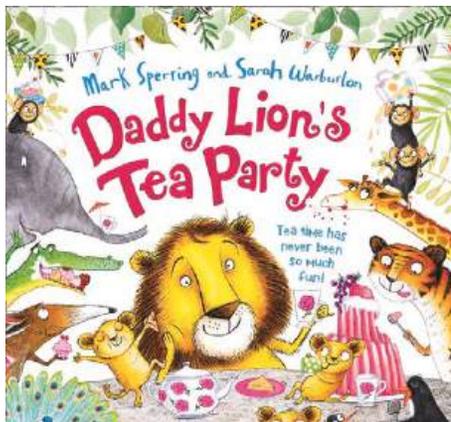
The Library Board, staff, and patrons wish our Head of Circulation Services, Sandy Frank, the very best on her retirement after 30 years of service!

Read to Gracie*

Grades K-4

Saturdays: March 28, April 25, May 30
2-3 p.m.

Register for 10 minutes of reading time with our new therapy dog partner, Gracie! This program is done in partnership with St. John's Lutheran Church in La Grange.



Read & Create: Daddy Lion's Tea Party*

Grades PreK-1

Tuesday, April 14

4-4:45 p.m.

Bring your favorite stuffed animal to our reading of Mark Sperring's book "Daddy Lion's Tea Party." Afterwards, we will make a zoo animal craft to take home!

Junior Engineers: Catapult Build*

Grades 2-4

Thursday, April 16

4-4:45 p.m.

Build your own craft stick catapult and see how far you can fling different objects!



Miss Jamie's Farm: Green Planet Show*

Families Welcome!

Wednesday, April 22

4-4:45 p.m.

Join Miss Jamie and her animal puppet friends as we sing and dance about Earth Day and how we can help to keep our beautiful planet clean and green!



Teen Board Hosts: Read with Pippin*

Grades PreK-1

Thursday, April 23, 4-4:30 p.m.

Meet Pippin the therapy dog and enjoy some stories about other dogs! Our Teen Library Board members will be present to read books for Youth patrons.

Ford LEGO Creators*

Grades 2-4

Thursday, April 30

4-4:45 p.m.

Bring your ideas and imagination to the Library to create a LEGO model! LEGO bricks will be provided.



Oakley's Welcome Party!

Families Welcome!

Saturday, May 2

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join us as we welcome our new friend and Youth Services mascot, Oakley the Squirrel, to the Library! We'll celebrate Oakley's arrival with a party full of fun games and crafts.

Evergreen Programs

March - May

Display Case

March 1-May 31

Do you have a collection you would like to show off? Stop by the Youth Services Desk to sign up for a shelf! Collections will remain in the display case for one month.

Leprechaun Count Scavenger Hunt

March 1-31

Count with the Leprechaun! Find where he is hiding each day and count his shamrocks to get a sticker from the Youth Services Desk.



Help the Earth Scavenger Hunt

April 1-30

In honor of Earth Day on April 22, our raccoon friend will be recycling a new item each day. Tell us what item is in his recycling can to earn a sticker!

Oakley's Flowers Scavenger Hunt

May 1-31

Our new mascot, Oakley the Squirrel, is exploring the Youth Services Department. Find him and count the flowers in his bouquet to earn a sticker!

BINGO Challenge

March-May

Search the Youth Services Department to find the items on your BINGO card. Turn in your completed card to earn a sticker!

**Thomas Ford
Memorial Library**

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

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Library Hours

Monday - Thursday
9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday & Saturday
9:30 a.m - 5 p.m.
Sunday
CLOSED on Sundays from Memorial Day weekend
through Labor Day weekend

Ted Bodewes, Library Director

Library Closings

The Library will be closed on the following dates:
• Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day

Library Board of Trustees

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

Board of Trustees Meeting Dates

The Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.
Spring dates: March 24, April 28, May 26

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 10, April 14, May 12
7:15 p.m.
Amateur investors meet to discuss financial insights, trends, stocks, etc.

Western Springs Writers' Society

Second & Fourth Thursdays:
March 12, 26; April 9, 23; May 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 with any questions.

Knitting Circle

Every other Thursday:
March 5, 19; April 2, 16, 30; May 14, 28
1 p.m.
Join us for knitting, conversation, and light refreshments.



you
belong
here