

WPL The EXPLORER

A Publication of the Westmont Public Library

Vol. 4, Issue 1 March-May 2010

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2010 Census

Don't forget to fill out and mail in your census! Census information determines how much federal funding your community gets. Those funds are spent on things like hospitals, schools, and job training centers.

The information you provide in the census will be protected and kept strictly confidential.

For more information, visit the census bureau's website: www.census.gov.

United States[®]
**Census
2010**
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

The Big Read: *The Help*



During March and April 2010, ten area libraries are partnering once again to bring you special programs and events all focused on one, extraordinary book.

Immerse yourself in the racially charged pages of Kathryn Stockett's bestselling, debut novel, *The Help*. You'll

meet memorable characters who will guide you through life in the South during the early 1960s as they witness a nation on the brink of revolution.

Copies of the book are in high demand, but you can place a hold by calling the Library or through the SWAN catalog online.

You can find a list of the **Big Read** programs taking place at the Westmont Library under our Adult Programs list on page three of this newsletter. As a Westmont resident, you can attend any

of the programs listed in the official **Big Read** resource guide available at the library now! Remember to register ahead by calling the hosting library.

You can keep up with the latest **Big Read** news in several different ways. Visit the Westmont Public Library's webpage for current and updated program and event news or the official **Big Read** website: www.thebigread.org. You can also become a fan of the **Big Read** on Facebook and find the Twitter page at: twitter.com/bigread2010.

Join our Monthly Book Discussion Group

If you are someone who enjoys current literature and would like to discuss a common book with other individuals, then we have a group for you!

Our 4th Monday Book Discussion Group has been meeting for 10 years this fall, and is always looking for new members.

This Library sponsored group meets at

7PM on the 4th Monday of every month. For lively discussion and a place to meet other book lovers, try out a meeting!

Books are chosen several months in advance by member suggestions. The group votes on the recommended books and the person who suggests a title is typically the person who leads the discussion.

The following books are being read in coming months:

- The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant on March 22nd.
- The Geography of Bliss* by Eric Weiner on April 26th.
- May 24th selection TBA.*

Check our website or ask at the Main Desk for current and updated lists of book discussion titles.

National Library Week & Fine Amnesty

Take time to visit the Westmont Public Library during the week of **April 11th-17th, 2010**. National Library Week is a nationwide, annual celebration of libraries and their many contributions to communities. As an added bonus, every one who checks out a book during National Library Week will receive a

plantable WPL bookmark!

Once a year during National Library Week, the Library offers **Food for Fines**, a program that allows local library overdue fines to be forgiven in exchange for non-perishable food donations.

One can or box of food will eliminate \$1 in fines from your account. There is

no limit to how much you can donate, but all overdue fines must be from Westmont Public Library. Lost or damaged books and fines from other libraries do not qualify for the amnesty.

For more information about Food for Fines, please call 630-969-5625.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

📖 **A Westmont Western!**
Saturday, March 6th, 1-2:30PM
Ages 7-9

Round up your readers for an afternoon of cowboy & cowgirl games, crafts, and other fun activities.

📖 **Handmade & Recycled Instruments**
Wednesday, April 7th, 10:15AM
Ages 3-6

Make some noise with handmade instruments as we celebrate Earth Day early! Musician Anna Stange will lead us in this recycled craft and a special time of music and instrument play with our new creations!

📖 **Art4Kidz: Shapes**
Saturday, April 17th, 1-3PM
Ages 7-11

Get creative for a special day all about using shapes in art! The focus is on two and three-dimensional shapes, irregular shapes and positive versus negative shapes. Each child will make a piece of art to take home.

📖 **Science Saturday**
Saturday, May 15th, 1-2:30PM
Ages 5-11

Learn cool, new science concepts, do experiments, and take home your creations. Learning has never been so fun!

📖 **♥ Blooming Wreath Craft**
Saturday, May 1st @ 2:30PM
Ages 9-13

Celebrate spring with a beautiful flower wreath craft! Wreaths are made out of pre-cut paper flowers in a variety of colors and styles. Come and make your own, unique wreath just in time for Mother's Day!

⊖ **Game Days @ Your Library**
Tuesdays, 3/23, 4/27, 5/25, 3-6PM
Ages 6 and up

Once a month the library offers hours of video game play on the big screen! Make new friends, munch on snacks, and play games. **Chess tutoring** is offered from 5-6PM for anyone interested in learning to play.

⊖ **Toddler & Me Playgroup**
Every Wednesday, 10:45-11:30AM
March 3rd-17th & April 14th-May 5th
Caregivers and their little ones enjoy play time and snacks in the meeting room.

📖 **Family Storytimes**
Thursdays, 3/18, 4/15, 5/20
6:30PM

Join us for a night of family fun! Begin the evening with tales that will delight all ages. After storytime, each family works together on a craft to take home.

Storytimes this Spring!
March 2nd-18th &
April 12th-May 6th

📖 **Bilingual Storytime**
Mondays, 3/8, 3/22, 4/12, 4/26
11:30AM

Children who speak any language will benefit from our storytime that stresses both English and Spanish vocabulary.

📖 **Pre-Reader Storytime**
Tuesdays @ 10:15AM:
Four- and five-year-olds explore with books, crafts, and songs.

⊖ **Early Talkers Storytime**
Wednesdays @ 10:15AM:
Ages 0-2 enjoy books, action songs, and other musical activities.

⊖ **Talkers Storytime**
Thursdays @ 10:15AM:
Two- and three-year-olds learn with books, flannel boards, and music.

NOTE ON PROGRAMMING:

The Youth programming staff asks all parents to be prompt when bringing children to library events. Anyone arriving 15 minutes after the start of a program will have their spot given to an already present child. No child will be admitted to a program more than 20 minutes after the event's start time.

Registration Key: 📖 **Call ahead or register in person** ⊖ **No registration required**

⊖ **No children under 12**

♥ **Sponsored by the Friends of WPL**

Staff may refuse entrance for a library program to any person who is not within the required age range.

Dates and programs are subject to change. Please check the library website for updated information at: www.westmontlibrary.org.

♿ Please note: Individuals requiring accommodation for a disability for any library program should contact the library at least five days before the program.

COLD BLOODED CREATURES



📖 **♥ Sunday, April 18th @ 2:00PM**
Ages 3 and up

What do a snake, tortoise, lizard and alligator all have in common? They will be at Westmont Library for a special visit from Jim Nesci and his reptile friends! Learn how dinosaurs from long ago are linked to today's reptiles and other fascinating facts about these misunderstood creatures.

Space is limited! Register today by calling 630-969-5625 or visit the library.

This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Westmont Public Library.

TEEN SCENE

Join us for **Anime Club**, the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7PM: **3/24, 4/28, 5/26**. We watch and discuss anime with other fans of the genre.

Give back to the community and earn service hours by joining **TeenTeam**, a volunteer group of Westmont Junior and Senior High age students. Pick up an application at the library or download it on our website under "employment."

Check out the **cool new changes** to the Teen section of the library that took place during the December second floor remodel! New furniture will be here soon!

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Computer classes are now being offered for a variety of skill levels. There is a **non-refundable \$5 fee per person, per class** which must be paid for at the time of registration. Please direct further questions to the Adult Help Desk.

📖🕒 **Intro to Computers**

Tuesday, March 9th, 6:30-8:30PM

Learn the basic parts of a computer, their purpose, how to use the keyboard and mouse, plus opening and using programs in Windows. No previous computer knowledge is required.

📖🕒 **Internet Basics**

Tuesday, April 13th, 6:30-8:30PM

Learn Internet terminology, how to use a Web browser and how to search the Internet. You must have basic Windows, mouse and keyboarding skills to attend.

📖🕒 **Excel for Beginners**

Monday, May 17th, 6:30-8:30PM

This class will take you through basic instruction including cells and worksheets, formulas, charts and more. You must have basic Windows, mouse and keyboarding skills to attend.

ADULT PROGRAMS

🕒🕒 **Spanish Conversation Group-NEW GROUP!**

Mondays, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3 @ 7PM

Do you have a basic knowledge of the Spanish language but would like to learn practical phrasing and brush up on your conversation skills? Then this is the group for you! Led by a native speaker, this informal group will meet once a month. Open to high school and college students as well as adult learners of all ages!

🕒🕒 **Writers' Group**

Thursdays, 3/4 & 3/18, 4/1 & 4/15, 5/6 & 5/20 @ 7PM

This interactive group is for adults interested in improving their writing skills and venturing into the world of publishing. The first Thursday of the month is a large group session in the meeting room that includes brief presentations, group writing exercises and critiques. The third Thursday consists of small group critique sessions conducted throughout the library in study rooms.

🕒 **English Conversation Group**

Saturdays, 3/13 & 3/27, 4/10 & 4/24, 5/8 & 5/22, 10AM-12PM

This informal and friendly conversation group is for all adult English learners. Join us on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month as we improve our verbal English skills!

Un grupo informal y amistoso de conversación para todos que están aprendiendo inglés. Venga para reunirse con nosotros en la Biblioteca Pública de Westmont cada segundo y cuarto sábado del mes, desde las 10:00am hasta las 12:00pm. Nota: No es necesario registrarse y es gratis.

📖❤️ **Rolling in Dough: A Big Read Program**

Sunday, March 14th @ 2PM

Have fun exploring basic pie-making techniques with Liz Osgood, relentless baker and owner of The Average Gourmet. Osgood shows how to make a pie crust, how to use a pastry cutter and a food processor. Learn how to top your pie with either a crumb crust, double crust, or, for the most patient, a lattice crust. Three different types of pie will be demonstrated, including a traditional pie, a classic peach and cranberry tart, and a free-form bistro apple tart.



📖🕒* **The Help Book Discussion: A Big Read Program**

Wednesday, March 31st @ 12:30PM

If you are one of the thousands of people who has read *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, we invite you to attend a brown bag lunch book discussion and enjoy an afternoon of discourse amongst your peers.

*Location: Clarendon Hills Public Library, 7 N. Prospect Ave., Clarendon Hills, IL

📖❤️ **Growing Up Jim Crow: The South in the 1960s:**

A Big Read Program

Wednesday, April 7th @ 7PM

Charles R. Branham, Senior Historian at the DuSable Museum of African-American History, discusses the laws that impacted the lives of people living in the 1960s. Dr. Branham was the writer, co-producer, and host of the Emmy Award-winning *The Black Experience*, a series of 60 half-hour programs for Chicago's WTTW and PBS.

📖🕒❤️ **The 1960s: Reform & Rebellion: A Big Read Program**

Monday, April 12th @ 7PM

Dr. Walter Burdick, professor at Elmhurst College, discusses how the twin forces of reform and rebellion shaped the decade. Burdick has studied American social and intellectual history and the role of elitism in America. He has also studied political issues and personalities, with a primary focus on political and foreign policy in the 20th century.

📖🕒 **Living Green in Chicagoland**

Thursday, April 22nd @ 7PM

Join Anna Stange, Chicagoland's 4th greenest person, as she talks about reducing your carbon footprint without breaking your budget. Get an introduction to reducing energy & water consumption, the 3 Rs, organic growing, and preserving the harvest. She will even bring simple canning tools to help demystify the canning process.

🕒❤️ **Hub Caps, Hood Ornaments, and Fins: A Big Read Program**

Saturday, April 24th, 10AM-2PM

The Cadillac and LaSalle Chapter of the Antique Automobile Club of America will display cars from the 1960s. The program will be held next door in the DuPage Health Department's parking lot.

Rain date: Saturday, May 1st, 2010.



Registration Key: 📖 Call ahead or register in person 🕒 No registration required

🕒 No children under 12

❤️ Sponsored by the Friends of WPL

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Westmont Public Library

428 N. Cass Ave.
Westmont, IL 60559
www.westmontlibrary.org

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Library Closings:

Sunday, April 4th, 2010
Friday, May 14th, 2010
Sunday, May 30th, 2010
Monday, May 31st, 2010

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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

**By Christine Kuhn,
Library Director**

The Explorer is a Westmont Public Library quarterly publication intended to offer current and updated library information to Westmont patrons.

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The Friends of the Westmont

Public Library is a non-profit organization that supports the library by raising money to help subsidize the cost of programs and special events. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Library, please email: friends@westmontlibrary.org or call (630) 969-5625.

Library Hours:

Monday-Thursday 10AM-9PM
Friday-Saturday 10AM-5PM
Sunday 1PM-5PM

For more information about the Westmont Public Library, please contact us at:

630.969.5625
630.969.6490 fax
westmontlibrary@westmontlibrary.org

Become a fan of the Westmont Public Library on Facebook!

Earth Day is not until April 21st this year, but the lessons we have learned since the dawn of the environmental movement nearly 40 years ago, impact us every day. Libraries have been practicing the three R's of recycling for over a century, even before we knew about the environmental benefits.

Reduce! At

Westmont Public Library we have 1,500 cookbooks, 3,000 DVDs, and over 200 magazine and newspaper subscriptions so you don't have to. We have access to nearly \$30,000 in databases with information on auto repairs, genealogy, term paper writing, job searching and

more, so you don't have to. Public libraries in Illinois stretch tax dollars by sharing their collections. You can visit any public library in Illinois and your library card will be honored for most of their collections (each library reserves the right to place limits). The SWAN catalog allows you to place reserves on items you would like to borrow, and those items will be sent to the Westmont Library, saving you time and gas. If you can't find what you need in SWAN, our librarians request materials from nearly every public and academic library in the U.S.

Recycle! You can recycle your newspapers,

magazines and other papers in the yellow and green dumpster in the back of our parking lot. Combined with the waste paper from the Library, this recycling container takes paper straight to the re-pulping mill where it is turned into next month's newspapers.

Reuse! Return your library materials after enjoying them. Borrow them again or let someone else borrow them.

Your library reduces your need for shelf space, encourages reuse of books, DVDs, CDs and more, and recycles your old magazines and newspapers. How green is that!

READ ACROSS AMERICA!

In honor of the NEA's *Read Across America* and Dr. Seuss's birthday, the Westmont Public Library has a special day planned for Tuesday, March 2nd.

The storytime room will be set up as a party room with a drop-in craft for ages 5 and up. Sign a birthday card for Dr. Seuss, read your favorite Seuss stories,



and get a free Dr. Seuss pencil when you check out any book! Come celebrate the life and literature of Dr. Seuss and spend the day reading!

SUMMER READ 2010

Get ready to **Make Waves** this summer at the Westmont Public Library. Our summer reading program will begin on June 1st and end with a family fun carnival on Saturday, August 7th, 2010.



The summer reading program is open to Westmont residents of all ages. It is designed to keep children reading during the summer months. Parents are encouraged to sign up and display positive, lifelong reading habits for their children.