



WESTMONT
PUBLIC LIBRARY

March, April, May 2025

THE EXPLORER

Branch out:
digital media,
databases, and
online learning

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Dance: Puss 'n' Boots**

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Branch out

Last year, Library users borrowed more than 60,000 titles from our digital collection of ebooks, audiobooks, and streaming video—and dove into databases for everything from newspaper articles to genealogy research over 50,000 times.

And there's even more to download, stream, search, and explore from our Digital Branch!

Enjoy digital media

Read the buzziest best sellers, binge an entire manga series, or see what's new from your favorite authors.

Prefer to listen? Stream or download audiobooks (and music) to your device to enjoy while commuting, traveling, or taking a walk.



> Looking for ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines? Check out **Libby** (the Overdrive app) and **Hoopla**, which also offers streaming music and video.



> Watch movies, documentaries, and The Great Courses videos on **Kanopy**.



> Enjoy comics, graphic novels, and manga for all ages from **Comics Plus**.

westmontlibrary.org/digital-media



Dig into newspapers & databases

Keep up with current events, find reliable information, and research topics from genealogy to car repair.



> Stay informed with digital access to newspapers and magazines like *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Economist*. The **Pressreader** app also offers a variety of international newspapers and interest-specific publications covering gaming, fashion, entertainment, and more.

> We recently added more than 50 **online databases** to expand your access to vetted information, current and historical records, and academic articles.



> **Young learners** can explore, play, and learn with a collection of online resources designed to meet their interests and abilities at westmontlibrary.org/youth-digital.



westmontlibrary.org/newspapers



westmontlibrary.org/databases

Grow with online learning

Learn something new—for personal fulfillment, career development, or educational growth.



> Level up your skills with self-paced courses from **Udemy**.



> Take important tests with confidence after practicing with **Peterson's Test & Career Prep**.



> Make art and crafts with professionally made tutorials via **Creativebug**.



> Learn how to say "let's go to the library" from Buenos Aires to Beijing with the help of **Transparent Language**.

westmontlibrary.org/online-learning



Take-home Craft Kits

Tuesdays, March 4, April 1, May 6
Youth & Teen Services (2nd floor)

Pick up a kit with supplies and instructions for a project to complete at home. Available while supplies last. **3 – 8 years**

Preschool Skills

Tuesdays, March 4 and April 8
1 – 1:45 pm

This themed storytime and craft session helps prepare your child for their first school experience. Adults are encouraged to participate with their child.

4 – 6 years with a caregiver

Nature Storytime with The Morton Arboretum

Tuesday, March 25, 10 – 10:30 am

A presenter from The Morton Arboretum will share stories about how weather, trees, and animals change with the seasons!
2 – 5 years with a caregiver

Discovery Playtime

Thursday, March 27 and Tuesday, May 6
9:30 – 11 am OR 1 – 2 pm

Join us for sensory, art, and educational play. Make sure to wear old clothes and be ready for some messy fun while learning about your world.

18 months – 5 years with a caregiver

Adaptive Playtime

Saturday, March 29, 10 – 10:45 am

This inclusive storytime is especially welcoming for children with sensory processing challenges and for families who are looking for a more adaptive storytime experience. We'll explore interactive stories, rhymes, and activities in a non-judgmental environment.

0 – 8 years with a caregiver

April Fools' Storytime and Craft

Tuesday, April 1, 10 – 10:45 am

Laugh along with us in a silly themed storytime and then join us for a craft activity. **0 – 6 years with a caregiver**

Parent Workshop: Skills for Kindergarten Readiness

Monday, April 14, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

See page 9 for details.

Saturday Music & Movement Storytime

Saturday, April 19, 10 – 10:30 am

Start your weekend with a story! Drop in for a special Saturday edition of this active storytime filled with music, movement, and stories. **0 – 6 years with a caregiver**

Storytelling Through Dance: Puss 'n' Boots

Saturday, March 15, 10 – 10:45 am

Join Salt Creek Ballet and explore the familiar tale of Puss 'n' Boots! Participants will read the story, explore some basic ballet steps, and then learn a dance based on various characters in the story.
4 – 9 years with a caregiver

MARIO Day!

Monday, March 10, 9:30 am – 7:30 pm
Youth & Teen Services (2nd floor)

Celebrate National Mario Day (MAR 10) with a special craft & coloring pages!

Tower Building Challenge

Saturday, May 10, 10 am – noon

We'll provide the supplies, you bring the ingenuity to design and build your very own tower using rolled newspapers. How tall and sturdy can you make it?

March Madness: Coolest Animal

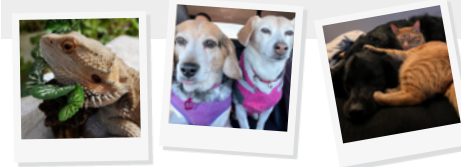
March 14 – April 3
Youth & Teen Services (2nd floor)

Vote for the coolest animal! Each week we'll vote to decide which animals make it to the next round. Only one can earn the title of WPL's Coolest! The first round starts March 14, and the winner will be declared on April 4.

Pet Parade

May 1 – 22
Youth & Teen Services (2nd floor)

Show off your animal friends! Draw a picture or bring a photo of your pet to add to our Pet Parade display.



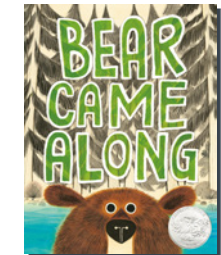
Spring StoryWalks®

Diane Main Park, 200 W 59th St.

Enjoy a story with the whole family while you stroll through Diane Main Park. Simply follow the path around the lake, reading signs placed along the trail, to take in the full story. Presented in partnership with Westmont Park District.



April 11 – 14
Best Day Ever
Marilyn Singer & Leah Nixon



May 9 – 12
Bear Came Along
Richard T. Morris & LeUyen Pham

Weekly storytimes

Spanish Language Storytime

Mondays, 10 – 10:30 am
Feb. 24 – Mar. 17 and Apr. 7 – 28

Drop in with your little one to enjoy songs and stories in Spanish. Presented by The Language Labs.

0 – 6 years with a caregiver

Music & Movement Storytime

Wednesdays, 10 – 10:30 am
Feb. 26 – Mar. 19 and Apr. 9 – 30
Youth & Teen Services (2nd floor)

Drop in for these storytimes filled with music, movement, and stories.

0 – 6 years with a caregiver

Lapsit Storytime

Series 1: Feb. 25 – Mar. 20

Choose one session from:

- A** Tuesdays, 9:30 – 10 am OR
- B** Thursdays, 10:15 – 10:45 am

Series 2: Apr. 8 – May 1

Choose one session from:

- A** Tuesdays, 9:30 – 10 am OR
- B** Thursdays, 10:15 – 10:45 am

Lapsit Storytime offers our youngest patrons a chance to learn fingerplays and hear stories in a low-key environment with their caregivers. Sign up for series 1 and 2 separately. Please choose one session per series. **0 – 24 months with a caregiver**

2 & 3 Storytime

Series 1: Feb. 25 – Mar. 20

Choose one session from:

- A** Tuesdays, 10:15 – 10:45 am OR
- B** Thursdays, 9:30 – 10 am

Series 2: Apr. 8 – May 1

Choose one session from:

- A** Tuesdays, 10:15 – 10:45 am OR
- B** Thursdays, 9:30 – 10 am

In each lively session, children 2 – 3 years old and their caregivers will enjoy songs, action rhymes, and stories that will help develop skills necessary for reading readiness. Sign up for series 1 and 2 separately. Please choose one session per series. **2 – 3 years with a caregiver**

Spotlight on youth reads: in bloom



Plant the Tiny Seed
Christie Matheson

- > Interactive
- > Picture book
- > Watch seeds grow

Gardening Lab for Kids

Renata Fossen Brown

- > Garden activities
- > Experiments
- > Nonfiction



The Fairy Garden

Georgia Buckthorn & Isabella Mazzanti

- > Enchanting
- > Environmentalism
- > Fairies

All About Plants

Andrea Beaty & Dr. Theanne Griffith

- > Ada Twist
- > STEM
- > Nonfiction



READY TO READ!

PARKER GROWS A GARDEN



Parker Grows a Garden

Parker Curry, Jessica Curry, Brittany Jackson & Tajae Keith

- > Early reader
- > Gardening
- > Family

For more book lists curated by librarians, scan this code or visit westmontlibrary.org/youth-lists.





Grades K – 5

Homeschool Hangout
Mondays, March 24 and May 5
10:30 am – noon

Come hangout with other homeschool families and find out how the Library can support your learners! **Grades K – 5 with a caregiver**

STEM Stations

Saturday, April 5, 10 am – noon

Flex your STEM muscles as you play, build, design, problem solve, and collaborate at each station. **Grades K – 5 with a caregiver**

Audiobook Club

Thursday, April 24, 4:15 – 5:30 pm

Join us after school to listen to an audiobook! Follow along with the story in a copy of the book, draw while you listen, or just sit back and enjoy the audio performance. Feel free to bring something soft to sit on to make yourself comfortable.

Art Studio

Thursday, May 8, 4:15 – 5:15 am

Use your imagination, creative thinking, and problem solving skills to experiment with different art forms and media.

Grades K – 2

READ with Hinsdale Humane Society ✍️

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
March 11, April 8, May 13

Meet with a trained therapy pet and its handler to practice your reading! Co-sponsored by Hinsdale Humane Society.

Paper Donut Decorating ✍️

Thursday, March 13, 4:15 – 5 pm

Cut, color, glue, and sprinkle your favorite details onto your own paper donut creation!

Felt Flowers ✍️

Thursday, April 10, 4:15 – 5 pm

Craft soft and colorful blooms to keep or share!

Flower Suncatcher ✍️

Thursday, May 15, 4:15 – 5 pm

Create a vibrant flower suncatcher, perfect for brightening any window!

Grades 3 – 5

Minecraft Perler Bead Charms ✍️

Thursday, March 20, 4:15 – 5 pm

Craft your own unique Minecraft pixel items, blocks, and tools with Perler beads!

Beaded Windchimes ✍️

Thursday, April 3, 4:15 – 5 pm

Make beaded windchimes that sing with the sounds of spring!

Flower Suncatchers ✍️

Thursday, May 15, 5:15 – 6 pm

Create a vibrant flower suncatcher, perfect for brightening any window!



Monthly Teen Book Club

Join us for a unique teen book club! Read one of the selected books for the month and submit your review online. Reviews earn volunteer hours! For titles, visit westmontlibrary.org/teen-book-club.



Spotlight on YA reads: in bloom ▼



What We Harvest
Ann Fraistat

- > Miracle crops
- > Family farms
- > Folk fantasy horror

This Poison Heart
Kalynn Bayron

- > Plant magic
- > Secret apothecaries
- > Greek mythology



Taproot
Keezy Young

- > Graphic novel
- > Mystery
- > LGBTQIA+

The Sprite and the Gardener
Rii Abrego

- > Graphic novel
- > Sprites
- > Garden magic



A Deathly Compendium of Poisonous Plants
Rebecca E. Hirsch

- > Science
- > History
- > True crime

Take & Make: Crafting for a Cause ✍️

Complete crafts to earn volunteer hours! Pick up a kit of supplies and instructions from the Youth & Teen Desk, while supplies last, then return your completed crafts by the deadline for credit.

Mar. 3 – 24: Paper kaleidoscopes
Apr. 7 – 28: Pet toys
May 5 – 26: Tote bags

Shrinky Dinks ✍️

Wednesday, March 12, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Create shrinky dinks and make them into whatever you want—simple decorations, keychains, necklaces, and more!

Teen Advisory Committee ✍️

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
March 26, April 30, May 28

Meet with other teens to discuss programs, books, and what you would like to see happen in the Library. Earns volunteer hours.

Cookie Decorating ✍️

Wednesday, April 16, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Do you think you have what it takes to decorate the coolest cookie? Following a theme, you'll work to decorate a cookie. Prizes will be awarded by votes from Library staff.

Paper Lanterns ✍️

Wednesday, May 7, 6:30 – 7:30 pm


Make your own lanterns out of transparent paper and popsicle sticks.

Get Ready for Summer: Volunteer Hour ✍️

Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Need a last minute volunteer hour before the end of the school year? Help us prepare for our summer reading program by decorating the youth area, organizing prizes, and getting the space ready.



 = Register at westmontlibrary.org/events or call 630 869 6150.
Registration opens Saturday, February 15, at 9 am.

Songs & Stories

Wednesdays, March 5 and April 9
6:30 – 7:30 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Join us for a special musical series at the Library! Every month, we will feature various local and student musicians playing instruments and songs of their choosing. Following each performance, the musicians will introduce the stories behind the songs.

Silent Reading

Friday, March 7, 10 – 11 am and
Thursday, April 17, 6 – 7 pm

Bring a book and enjoy some dedicated reading time! Take time to socialize, then read silently for 45 minutes.

Celebrating the Cherry Blossom

Wednesday, March 12, 2 – 3:30 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Educator Yvonne Wolf will give a brief overview of welcoming spring the Japanese way, through cherry blossom festivals. After the presentation, she'll teach attendees how to make their very own paper cherry blossoms.

Unspoken: Understanding Animal Communication

Thursday, March 20, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Learn how to interpret pet body language and get tips for effective communication. Presented by Laura Winnie, Education and Community Engagement Coordinator at DuPage County Animal Services.

Medicare 101

Wednesday, March 26, 1 – 2 pm OR
Tuesday, April 2, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

This program will address Medicare in general, Medicare Part D for prescriptions, your guaranteed issue rights, and guarantees that will disappear. You'll also learn what happens to your retiree coverage, and the differences between Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage. Presented by DuPage County Community Services.



Adult programs are held in the 1st floor Community Meeting Room (CMR), unless otherwise noted.

Create with the Makery

Sewing Basics: Sleep Mask

Saturday, March 1
10 am – noon OR 2 – 4 pm

Learn to use the Library's sewing machines, then sew a sleep mask to take home! Please register for one session only.

Embroidery Machine Basics

Monday, March 10, 6 – 7 pm

Learn how to use the Library's embroidery machine! A Library staff member will review the basics of the machine, as well as the Hatch design software.

Pom Pom Garlands

Wednesday, April 16, 1:30 – 3 pm

Learn to use a pom pom maker and create your own springtime pom pom garland.

Decoupage 3D Print

Saturday, May 3, 10 – 11 am

Decoupage a 3D printed catch all tray or pencil holder.

Paper Lotus Flowers

Thursday, May 15, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Follow along with a Creativebug tutorial as we make paper lotus flowers.

Learn more about the creative tools available in the Makery and how you can use them at westmontlibrary.org/makery.

Technology basics

Computer Basics

Tuesday, March 11, 1 – 2 pm

Join one of our Adult Services Librarians to learn the basics of navigating your way through a computer in this hands-on lesson. Experience using a mouse and keyboard are required.

Smartphone Basics

Thursday, March 13, 1 – 2 pm

Do you have a smart phone but you're not sure how to get started? An Adult Services Librarian will cover the basic features of smart phones, showing you how to find and download apps, take and share pictures, use Siri or Google Assistant, and more. Bring your device along for hands-on practice.

Internet Basics

Monday, April 14, 2 – 3 pm

Join one of our Adult Services Librarians to learn tips and tricks that make navigating the internet a little bit easier.

Mouse & Keyboard Basics

Monday, May 12, 6 – 7 pm OR
Thursday, May 22, 11 am – noon

Are you familiar with all the functions of a computer mouse? Do you wish you knew every keyboard shortcut? Start here and learn with one of our librarians in this hands-on workshop.

Smart Device App Basics

Tuesday, May 13, 10 – 11 am

Learn what apps are and review some of the best apps available for your tablet or smartphone.

Civil War Quilts

Saturday, April 5, 2 – 3:30 pm

Join presenter Connie Martin as she tells stories about how her family survived the trials and tribulations of the antebellum period. Connie shares how they used quilts that contained hidden codes and secret messages to assist abolitionists in guiding slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad to Canada.

Smartphone Photography 101

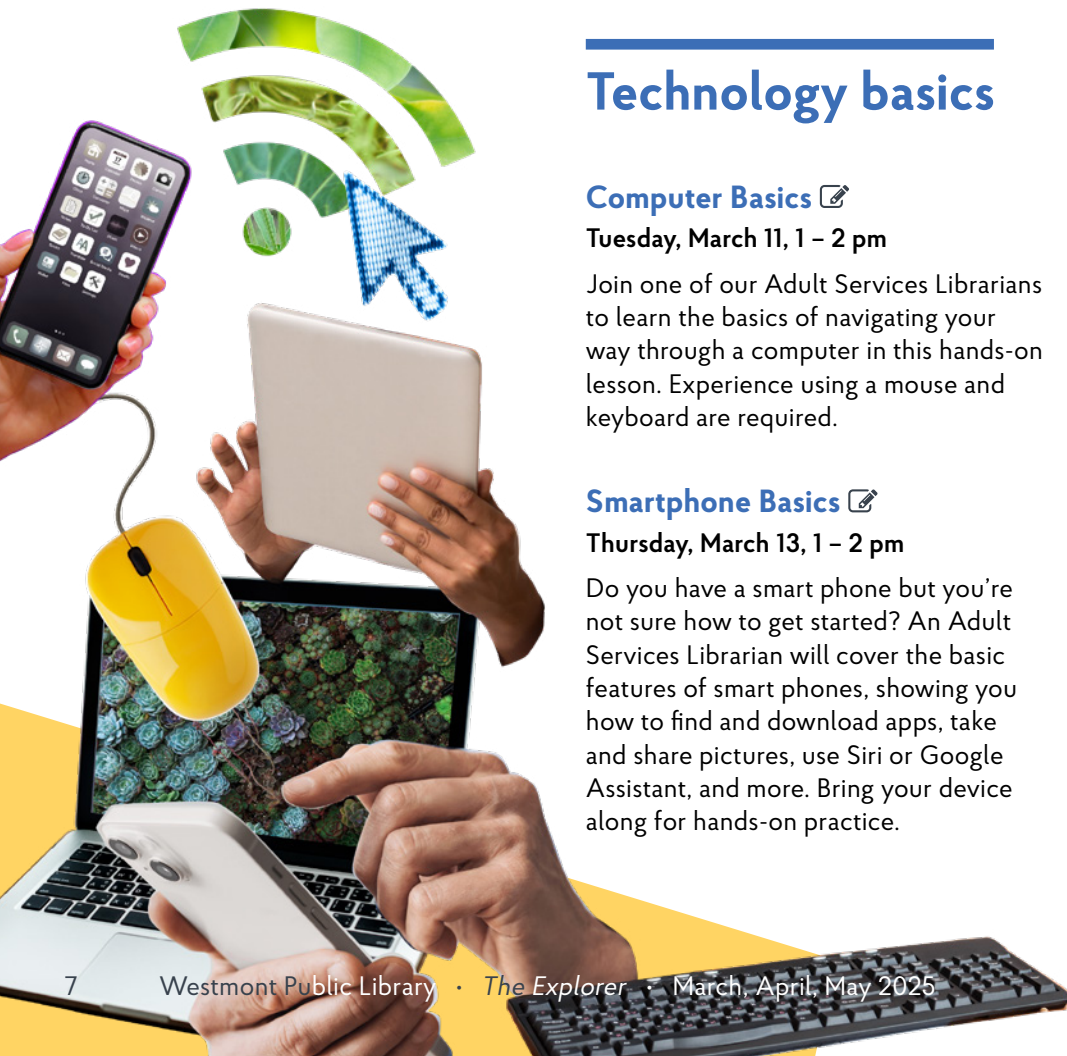
Thursday, April 10, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

They say the best camera is the one you have in your hand. Photographer Molly Page will teach you how to make the most of the incredible camera you carry around every day, with mobile photography tips and tricks.

Painting Swap Challenge

Saturday, April 12, 2 – 3:30 pm

Channel your creativity and participate in the viral paint swap trend! Everyone will start their own paintings and then swap every 10 minutes with the other artists in the room until the masterpiece is complete.



Dementia Friendly Westmont

Aging & Brain Health 📝

Wednesday, March 5, 1 – 2:30 pm

Many of us worry about our memory as we get older. Susan Frick, MSW, has worked at the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center for 27 years and will share lifestyle choices which might reduce your risk of dementia.

Memory Cafe 📝

Mondays, 1 – 2:30 pm
March 17, April 21, May 19
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Individuals living with dementia and their care partners are invited to socialize and connect with others in a similar situation at a memory cafe. Activities at the Memory Cafe are free. Presented in partnership with Birches Assisted Living & Memory Care and Oasis Senior Advisors.

Estate Planning for Individuals with Dementia 📝

Wednesday, April 2, 1 – 2:30 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Attorney Debra Anthony will discuss the importance of estate planning for individuals with dementia and their care partners.

Home Safety & Alternate Care Options 📝

Wednesday, May 7, 1 – 2:30 pm

Join us as we explore various options to help keep your loved one with dementia safe at home, and when might it be time to consider alternative care options. Presented by Mary Ferguson with Birches Assisted Living & Memory Care.

Parent Workshop: Skills for Kindergarten Readiness 📝

Monday, April 14, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Join Vivian Palicki from Early Learning Solutions & Advocacy for an interactive session designed to equip you with tools to support your child's social and emotional development. You will learn how to help prepare your child for a successful start by increasing their confidence and the critical independence skills needed for school readiness.

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop 📝

Monday, April 21, 6 – 7
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Join Dr. Muhammad Habib, a calligrapher who studied at the Calligraphy Institute in Cairo and is a preceptor of Arabic at Harvard University, for a hands-on experience in this traditional art form during Arab American Heritage Month.



Gardening Expo 📝

Saturday, April 26, 10 am – noon

Come to the Library to meet with a number of local garden related organizations. While you're here, learn more about Westmont Gardening Club!

Mixtape Bingo 📝

Wednesday, April 30, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Are you ready to rock? Or maybe you're more the "Twist and Shout" type. Join us for Mixtape Bingo where we will combine bingo with your favorite music from the 1960s through the 2000s.

Mystery Scavenger Hunt

May 1 – May 17

There's a mystery afoot at the Library. Help us follow clues to track down the suspect before they get away. Solve the mystery and win a prize!

History of the Little Black Dress 📝

Wednesday, May 14, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Versatile, dependable, and affordable, the Little Black Dress has become the fashion equivalent of a Model T Ford. In this illustrated lecture, historian Leslie Goddard, PhD, explores the history of this fashion icon. Learn how Chanel helped dissociate black from mourning, how Audrey Hepburn helped establish the LBD, and how it has been reinvented by everyone from Betty Boop to Prada.

Alice in Wonderland Murder Mystery Game 📝

Tuesday, May 20, 6 – 7:30 pm

Using forensic reports, personal agendas, and more, you must uncover the details of Tweedledee's murder to win the game.

Design Paper Dolls with Daina 📝

Thursday, May 22, 2 – 3:30 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Local resident Daina Geisler will introduce you to paper doll collecting. After the presentation, Daina will teach attendees how to design their own paper doll outfits.

The Benefits of Journaling 📝

Saturday, May 24, 1:30 – 2:30 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Join us to learn about the benefits of journaling and explore some journaling techniques.

Ongoing programs

Visit westmontlibrary.org/events for full descriptions and monthly book club selections.

Team Trivia

Mondays, 7 – 9 pm
March 3, April 7, May 5
Zazzo's Pizza & Bar, 200 W Ogden Ave.

Spice Club: Chives 📝

Monday, March 17, 7 – 7:45 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

4th Monday Book Club

Mondays, 6:45 – 7:45 pm
March 24, April 28, May 19
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Cookbook Club: At My Italian Table by Laura Vitale 📝

Monday, May 19, 7 – 7:45 pm

Westmont Gardening Club

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:45 pm
March 4, April 1, May 6

Note: The April 1 meeting will be held in the Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor).

Unreal World Book Club 📝

Tuesdays, 7 – 8 pm
March 4, April 1, May 6
Virtual: Zoom

Take & Make Craft Kits

Tuesdays, March 11, April 8, May 13
Adult Services Desk (1st floor)

Knit Clique

Tuesdays, 6 – 7:45 pm
March 11 & 25, April 8 & 22, May 13 & 27

Note: The March 25 meeting will be held in the Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor).

Writers Group

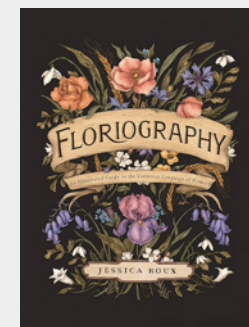
Thursdays, 6 – 7:45 pm
March 13 & 27, April 10 & 24, May 8 & 22
Study Room I (2nd floor)

English Conversation Group

Saturdays, 10 – 11:30 am
March 8 & 22, April 12 & 26, May 10 & 24

Note: The March 22 meeting will be held in the Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor).

Spotlight on adult reads: in bloom ▼



Floriography
Jessica Roux
 > Historical
 > Uses for flowers
 > Meaning of flowers

Garden Spells
Sarah Addison Allen
 > Healing & joy
 > Feel good
 > Leisurely pace



Crepe Paper Flowers
Lia Griffith
 > Create paper flowers
 > Arrange blooms
 > For beginners

Pruning the Dead
Julia Henry
 > Cozy mystery
 > Hobby mystery
 > Gentle read



Seasonal Flower Arranging
Ariella Chezar
 > Step-by-step instructions
 > Themed arrangements
 > Foraged materials

For more book lists curated by librarians, scan this code or visit westmontlibrary.org/adult-lists.





Westmont Public Library

428 N Cass Ave.
Westmont, IL 60559

Library hours

Monday – Thursday 9 am – 8 pm
Friday & Saturday 9 am – 5 pm
Sunday noon – 4 pm

Scheduled closings

Sunday, April 20
Sunday, May 25
Monday, May 26

Library contacts

westmontlibrary.org
630 869 6150

Main Desk

maindesk@westmontlibrary.org
630 869 6160

Adult Services

reference@westmontlibrary.org
630 869 6155

Youth & Teen Services

youth@westmontlibrary.org
630 869 6165


Julia Coen, Director

jcoen@westmontlibrary.org
630 869 6170

Library Board of Trustees

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Beth Krotiak, Trustee
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The Board of Library Trustees meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm. The public is invited to attend.

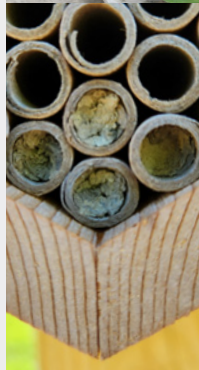
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Renewing the Library gardens

This year we're replacing the straw bales with more raised beds for increased growing space. As we prepare for this year's gardening season, we're also looking back at what happened in the garden in 2024.



Last year alone, we donated almost **190 pounds of produce** to the People's Resource Center (peoplesrc.org) food pantry in Westmont.



Our first guests laid eggs inside the **mason bee homes** last spring. We anticipate much more activity from these non-aggressive pollinators this season!



The north garden was re-certified as a **Monarch Waystation** thanks to all the native plants growing there.

 **Photo policy:** Program participants may be photographed or video-recorded for Library promotional purposes, including social media. Please notify Library staff if you prefer not to be photographed.

 **Accommodations:** Any person needing a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act in order to access the benefits of the Library's services or programs should contact the Assistant Director at 630 869 6171 or via email at accessibility@westmontlibrary.org, not less than five (5) business days prior to the program.