



WESTMONT  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# THE EXPLORER

December 2021 • January & February 2022

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# Westmont Reads 1000 Books

This year Westmont Reads takes place from December 1 – February 28. That's three full months of Westmont Reads. Why? Because we have a goal—we want to know if Westmont can read one thousand books before time runs out!

Join us December 1 for Westmont Reads 1000 Books!

Log your reading in Beanstack—[westmontlibrary.beanstack.org](http://westmontlibrary.beanstack.org)—all winter long for a chance to earn prizes! And while you're there, tell us what you're reading. At the end of Westmont Reads, we'll announce the most popular books in Westmont!

Not sure what title to start with? Let our librarians help you find your next great read!

Check out Book Recs, where every month staff members rate and review books we have in the collection. You can filter by genre, format, age, or rating.

Or, tell us about your preferences and our librarians will prepare personalized recommendations just for you. The more you tell us, the better we can help find your next favorite book!

WESTMONT  
READS

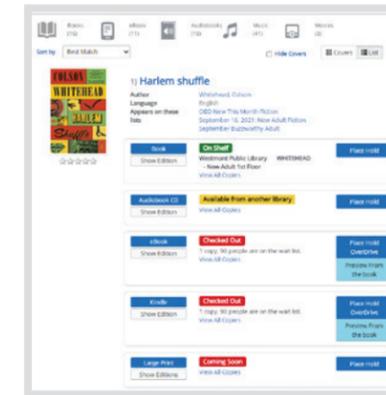


# Welcome to your new library catalog

Have you seen our new catalog? It went live as our main catalog on November 1. Don't worry... you can still use our classic catalog for a while. But once you've tried our new catalog, we're pretty sure you won't look back!

The new catalog is more accurate, bundles all your available formats under one title, and is generally a lot easier to use.

Visit our website and start searching!



## 3 reasons to **Love** the new catalog

**1 Smarter search**  
Quickly find what you're looking for with intuitive and intelligent searching that provides suggestions as you type and prioritizes the most relevant results.

**2 Grouped results**  
All formats for a given title—regular and large print, ebooks, audio, etc—are now grouped together under a single listing, so you can see your options without sorting through multiple pages of results.

**3 Availability at a glance**  
It's now easier to see what titles are currently on the shelf and available for checkout from Westmont Public Library—in person or from our Digital Branch. You can also limit your search to currently available items with a single click.

**Would you like some hands-on assistance with the new catalog?**  
Feel like learning about some of the more advanced features?

Drop in the **Community Meeting Room** any Tuesday in December and January from 2 – 3 pm and learn from our librarians!

# Librarians can help you find your next read

We call it "reader's advisory." Simply put, it is a process for recommending books. But it's more than recommending what's new or popular. It's about understanding what you like, your interests, and your needs. Reading for work or school? Researching a special project? Each one means a different kind of recommendation.

**It's about understanding what you like, your interests, and your needs.**

We can't do it without your input, so we made it easy for you to communicate what's important.

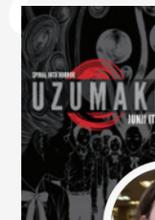
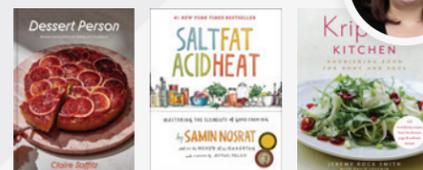
We created a simple online form for you to complete. The more you tell us, the better your recommendations will be!

If you prefer the personal approach, book an appointment with one of our librarians for a one-to-one reader's advisory consultation. This interactive, in-depth approach is a great way to discover new titles and authors!

We call it reader's advisory. You'll call it your next great read!

In addition to our online Personal Book Recs form and in-person recommendations, we also offer ready-made lists, reviews, and video book talks from our librarians. Check out a few excerpts. ▶

Claire Saffitz is an extremely talented pastry chef who is also incredibly down-to-earth and funny. In her book, *Dessert Person*, Saffitz shares how to bake with confidence and how anyone can make beautiful, high quality desserts at home! — Sandra

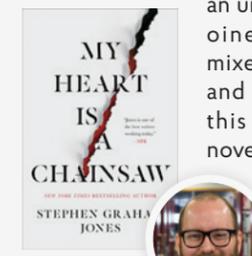


*Uzumaki* by Junji Ito takes a premise that sounds silly on the surface—people in a small Japanese village start to become obsessed with spirals—and makes it not only legitimately horrifying and disgusting, but also awe-inspiring. I was laughing out loud while I was reading it, not because it was funny, but because I was so blown away by what Junji Ito was pulling off. — Gil

One of my favorite genres to read during the winter is romance. With so many different types of romance novels, there's something out there for everyone. And with a guaranteed happily ever after, it's the perfect pick-me-up for those dreary winter days. — Natalie



A love letter to slasher films of the 1970s and '80s, *My Heart Is a Chainsaw* by Stephen Graham Jones subverts readers' expectations with clever twists and an unconventional heroine in Jade. Jones mixes comedy, horror, and brutal violence in this excellent horror novel. — Alex



Thrillers will always be one of my favorite genres of fiction! I love being engrossed in a story, where you are trying to keep up with the characters and figure out the mysteries as each clue unfolds. You never know if your first guess of 'who done it' will be right, or you will be tricked alongside the main characters. — Brittany



In *License to Parent: How My Career as a Spy Helped Me Raise Resourceful, Self-sufficient Kids*, CIA analyst turned mother of five Christina Hillsberg shares how her espionage career helped her parent in this real-life *Spy Kids* story. — Sara



# EARLY CHILDHOOD & FAMILY

Registration is required for programs with this icon: .  
Registration begins Monday, November 15 at 9 am.

## TAKE-HOME CRAFT KITS

Available Tuesdays, Dec. 7 & 28, Jan. 11 & 25, Feb. 8 & 22.

Pick up a kit from Youth Services with supplies and instructions for a creative project you can complete at home. Available while supplies last. **Ages 3 – 8 years**

## DIY WINTER STORYTIME

Available Wednesday, December 1.

This take-home storytime kit includes one winter-themed picture book and ideas for rhyming and moving activities for your young child. **Ages 0 – 5 years**

Sponsored by the Friends of the Westmont Public Library.

## LACING CARDS BUSY BAG

Available Tuesday, December 7.

Take home a set of craft foam lacing cards and laces for your child to practice fine motor skills. **Ages 18 months – 3 years**



Stay tuned  
for more

## WINTER STORYTIMES

Check our website and online event calendar for details about additional in-person storytimes, coming this January and February.

## DIY AT-HOME TREASURE HUNT

Available Tuesday, January 4.

Kit includes one ready-made treasure hunt for an adult or older sibling to set up, and one pre-wrapped treasure to hide! Also includes tips to create additional hunts that will help your child practice literacy skills. **Ages 3 – 8 years**

## VIRTUAL: LANGUAGE STORYTIME

Available Mondays, Jan. 10 – Feb. 28.

[youtube.com/westmontpubliclibrary](https://www.youtube.com/westmontpubliclibrary)

Spanish: January 10 & 24, February 7 & 21

French: January 17 & 31, February 14 & 28

Introduce your little one to a new language as we enjoy songs and stories in Spanish and French. Presented by The Language Labs. **Ages 0 – 6 years**

Sponsored by the Friends of the Westmont Public Library.

Register online at [westmontlibrary.org/events](https://westmontlibrary.org/events), by phone at 630 869 6150, or in person.

# GRADE SCHOOL (Grades K – 5)

## Grades K – 2

### COLLAGE ART

Thursday, December 9, 4:15 – 5 pm

Create your own unique piece of art using markers, crayons, stencils and more.

### SUPERHERO STEAM

Thursday, January 13, 4:15 – 5 pm

Explore engineering principles after you create your own superhero.

### MARBLE MAZE

Thursday, February 17, 4:15 – 5 pm

Create your own marble maze using a cardboard box top and straws.

## Grades 3 – 5

### COLLAGE ART

Thursday, December 9, 5:15 – 6 pm

Create your own unique piece of art using markers, crayons, stencils and more.

### PIPE CLEANER SUPERHEROES

Thursday, January 13, 5:15 – 6 pm

Build a bendable crime fighter and photograph them in action packed scenes using the Library's iPads.

### SHOE BOX MARBLE MAZE

Thursday, February 17, 5:15 – 6 pm

Create your own marble maze using a cardboard box top and straws.



# TEENS (Grades 6 – 12)

Registration is required for programs with this icon: .

Registration begins Monday, November 15 at 9 am.

Register online at [westmontlibrary.org/events](https://westmontlibrary.org/events), by phone at 630 869 6150, or in person.

## WESTMONT CREATES

Saturday, December 18, 10 am – noon  
Kwasek Meeting Room

Drop in to paint a toy train car to add to our Village of Westmont display, then paint one to take home!

## FAMILY CARD CRAFTING

Thursday, February 10, 9:30 am – 7:30 pm  
Youth Services Department

Drop in to create a card for someone special using a variety of craft supplies!

## FAMILY FORT NIGHT

Friday, January 21, 4:45 – 6:45 pm  
Youth Services Department

Bring your own blankets or sheets, pillows, and a flashlight to build your fort. Enjoy a story together around the "campfire" and then then crawl into your fort to read with your family.



This is a special after-hours program. Please arrive before the Library closes at 5 pm to ensure entrance to the program.

In partnership with the Prairie Area Reading Council.

## CRAFTING HOUR

Wednesday, December 15, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Join us for a creative hour of crafting where you can learn different techniques and try different art mediums.

## SEW A LANYARD

Wednesday, January 12, 6 – 7:30 pm

Using the library's sewing machines, make a lanyard to hold your keys or ID.

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

Saturdays, 10 am – noon  
January 15 and February 26

Need extra volunteer hours? Drop in to make cards for seniors on January 15 or paint rocks for our Library Rock Garden on February 26. Volunteers will earn one hour of credit for each hour of participation.

Cards for Seniors	January 15
Rock Painting for the Library Rock Garden	February 26



## TEEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm  
December 29, January 26, February 23  
Kwasek Meeting Room OR Zoom

Meet with Ms. Alyssa and other teens to discuss programs, books, and what you would like to see happen in the Library. Come in person or join us virtually over Zoom.

Earns volunteer hours! Sign up for each date individually.

## WESTMONT WRITES: CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Wednesday, February 9, 6 – 7:30 pm

Find your creative voice while discussing plots and story starts, and end with a Q&A about writing and publishing.

## ACT & SAT STUDY SESSION

Wednesday, February 16, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Drop in anytime within the hour for a place to study with fellow teens. Resources and teen tutors will be available

## TEEN TAKE & MAKES

Available starting Wednesday, December 1, January 5, and February 2.

Pick up a kit containing basic supplies and instructions, then take it home to create.

Magazine Collage	December 1
Perler Bead Design	January 5
Plastic Flower Creation	February 2



## FROSTY & FRIENDS PARADE

Saturday, December 4, 5 pm

Kick off Westmont's annual Holly Days Winter Festival with a parade and opening ceremonies in downtown Westmont. Then join the Park District for events throughout December, like Elf Tryouts and Snow Much Fun & Decorating Day. For more information, visit [westmontparks.org](https://westmontparks.org).

## CELEBRATE HOLLY DAYS WITH THE LIBRARY

Youth : Available starting Tuesday, December 7.  
Adult: Available starting Wednesday, December 8.

Drop in on Tuesday, December 7, and pick up a holiday-themed Take & Make Craft Kit for kids. Then come back on Wednesday, December 8, for an adult Take & Make Craft Kit. We provide the supplies, you provide the creativity and holiday spirit!

Registration is required for programs with this icon:

Registration begins Monday, November 15 at 9 am.

Register online at [westmontlibrary.org/events](http://westmontlibrary.org/events), by phone at 630 869 6150, or in person.

## ART FOR SENIORS

Thursday, December 2, 1:30 – 3 pm  
Community Meeting Room

Our elder patrons can enjoy creating a beautiful holiday glass ornament. This simplified craft will be done at a slower pace. Supplies will be provided along with easy to read and follow instructions.

## STOP MOTION COLLAGE

Saturday, December 4, 1 – 2:30 pm  
Community Meeting Room

Create a stop motion collage using cut-outs from magazines and Stop Motion Studio on an iPad.

## WESTMONT WRITES

Saturdays, 1 – 2 pm  
January 8 and February 5  
Community Meeting Room OR Zoom

Come in (or work along online) for a group writing session. We will have a list of resources for ideas and writing prompts. Register for one or both sessions.

## LIGHT UP YOUR WINTER NIGHTS

Saturday, January 15, 10 am – 4 pm  
Adult Services

Stop by the Adult Reference Desk to create your own winter lantern. This drop-in craft makes a great centerpiece or window decoration for long winter nights. Choose from winter designs and colors to create the perfect lantern.

## INTRO TO DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

Wednesday, January 19, 6:30 – 7:30 pm  
Community Meeting Room

Curious about D&D? Join Adult Services Librarian Natalie as she walks you through what the game is about, how to get started, and future D&D programming at WPL.

## VIRTUAL: CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR

Wednesday, January 26, 7 – 8 pm  
Virtual on Zoom

The Lunar New Year lasts from January 31 to February 15 and is observed by 20% of the world's population. Educator Yvonne Wolf will teach us about Lunar New Year and the rites, activities, symbols, and foods associated with it. Join us as we prepare for the Year of the Tiger!

## VIRTUAL: BUILD YOUR OWN D&D CHARACTER

Wednesday, February 2, 6:30 – 8 pm  
Virtual on Zoom

Use D&D Beyond to build your very own personalized D&D character. You'll be able to choose from a variety of classes, races, and traits. Steal the king's crown as a half-orc rogue. Embrace your inner princess as an elven sorceress. The choices are endless.

## A SCAVENGER HUNT

Available starting Saturday, February 12.

Are you in the mood for a challenge? Join us for a scavenger hunt. The fun starts February 12 at 1 pm. Check our event calendar to receive your first clue when the time comes!

## VIRTUAL: WINTER SOWING

Available starting Tuesday, February 15.  
[youtube.com/westmontpubliclibrary](http://youtube.com/westmontpubliclibrary)

Learn how to get a jumpstart on your garden with winter sowing! Master Gardener Pat Miller teaches us about winter sowing with simple around-the-house supplies.

## VIRTUAL: WHEN THE MUSIC DIED—THE BEATLES BREAKUP

Wednesday, February 16, 7 – 8 pm  
Virtual on Zoom

In the spring of 1970 The Beatles called it quits. Incredibly, it was only 6 years earlier that the Beatles exploded in America on the Ed Sullivan Show. In that brief period they became the world's most iconic band. We'll explore the reasons it all fell apart 50 years ago and what—if anything—could have been done to keep the band intact.

## B.Y.O.BOOK CLUB

Mondays, 7 – 7:45 pm  
Dec. 13, Jan. 17, Feb. 14  
Community Meeting Room

Welcome to Westmont Public Library's newest book club! We'll be focusing on genres and asking attendees to bring in one (or more!) of their favorite titles.

True Crime  
Science Fiction  
Romance  
December 13  
January 17  
February 14

## TEAM TRIVIA

Mondays, 7 – 9 pm  
Dec. 20, Jan. 24, Feb. 21  
Zazzo's Pizza & Bar, 200 W Ogden Ave.

Join us for an exciting evening of trivia at Zazzo's Pizza & Bar.

## VIRTUAL: UNREAL WORLD BOOK CLUB

Tuesdays, 7 – 7:45 pm  
Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1  
Virtual on Zoom

Come talk about books set in imaginative times and places, from the mythic past to far future. Titles are available on the Library event calendar.

Register with your email address to receive the link to this virtual program.

## VIRTUAL: TOGETHER TIME: CREATING MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Available starting Wednesday, December 1, January 5, and February 2.  
[youtube.com/westmontpubliclibrary](http://youtube.com/westmontpubliclibrary)



Seniors and caregivers, join us for tips and ideas for creating fun, purposeful, and meaningful moments together! Each month we will share several activities and their benefits for health and wellbeing. Kits available on the day of the program, while supplies last.

## WPL SPICE CLUB

Wednesdays, 7 – 7:45 pm  
Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9  
Community Meeting Room

Try new recipes and connect with other cooking enthusiasts. Each month, we will provide a spice packet and link to a recipe from AtoZ World Food. Then we'll meet at the Library to share our thoughts on the featured spice. Please do not bring your dish or any food the day of the program. Registrants will receive an email when the month's spice is available for pickup.

Paprika  
Coriander  
Tarragon  
December 8  
January 12  
February 9

## DROP IN BINGO

Thursdays, 2 – 3 pm  
December 9 – February 24  
Community Meeting Room

Drop in every Thursday for bingo! Some weeks we'll play traditional bingo, and some weeks we'll have special themed cards!

## BOOK IN A JAR

Visit the Adult Services Desk on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month to guess what discarded book has made its way into the mason jar. A correct guess wins an entry into a special prize raffle!

## VIRTUAL: ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP

Saturdays, 10 – 11 am  
Dec. 4 & 18, Jan. 15, Feb. 5 & 19  
Virtual on Zoom

Come learn with us! Join this informal and friendly group to practice English conversation skills. Led by a tutor from Literacy DuPage, we meet all year long.

Co-sponsored by Literacy DuPage.

## Westmont Creates Community Art Project

WESTMONT READS



### PAPER VILLAGE OF WESTMONT

Drop-in program:  
Thursday, December 9, 3 – 4 pm  
Community Meeting Room

Take-home kits available:  
Wednesday, December 1 – 22

Using the measurements provided, create a building made of recycled materials (magazines, cardboard, old books, etc.) for the paper village. Buildings can be dropped off at the Library to be put on display. Open to patrons of all ages—one building per cardholder.

Measurements: No larger than 4" tall by 2" wide per building.



### NEIGHBORS TOGETHER BOOK DISCUSSION: THE BOOK OF UNKNOWN AMERICANS BY CRISTINA HENRÍQUEZ

Wednesday, February 23, 1:30 – 2:30 pm  
Community Meeting Room

"The Book of Unknown Americans is a stunning novel of hopes and dreams, guilt and love—a book that offers a resonant new definition of what it means to be American." Join us for this lively discussion, led by Adult Services Librarian Alex!

Presented in partnership with Literacy DuPage.

This February, we're partnering with Literacy Dupage and five other local libraries to present **NEIGHBORS TOGETHER**, a series of book discussions and programs on topics around immigration and literacy. Details will be available this winter at the Library and online.

To learn more about Literacy DuPage, a community organization that helps connect English language learners with resources and tutors, visit [literacydupage.org](http://literacydupage.org) or call 630 942 5210.





**Westmont Public Library**  
428 N Cass Ave.  
Westmont, IL 60559

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit #12  
Westmont, IL

## Library Hours

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

## Scheduled Closings

Wednesday, Nov. 24 (5 pm closing)  
Thursday, Nov. 25  
Friday, Dec. 24 and Saturday, Dec. 25  
Friday, Dec. 31 and Saturday, Jan. 1

## Library Contacts

westmontlibrary.org  
630 869 6150

**Main Desk** 630 869 6160  
maindesk@westmontlibrary.org

**Adult Services** 630 869 6155  
reference@westmontlibrary.org

**Youth Services** 630 869 6165  
youth@westmontlibrary.org

**Julia Coen, Director** 630 869 6170  
jcoen@westmontlibrary.org

## The Explorer Staff

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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.

Postal Patron  
Westmont, IL 60559

# SEASON *of* SURVEYS

***You can help us determine what programs, collections, spaces, and services we offer at the Library.***

The Library is asking for your input. Heading into 2022, we will be taking a closer look at the ways we serve our community. To achieve the best possible results, we will be looking to you for important feedback.

We're calling this initiative the Season of Surveys, and we'll have a variety of specific surveys you can submit. Each survey completed earns an entry into a drawing for several great prizes! You can help us determine what programs, collections, spaces, and services we offer at the Library.

Complete as many different surveys as you like. At the end of the Season, we'll notify you if you've won a prize!

 **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:** We ask individuals with disabilities who require accommodation for Library programs to contact us at least five days in advance.