

THE EXPLORER

December 2025, January & February 2026

# Westmont Reads Bingo

Pages 1

**Tiny Art Show** 

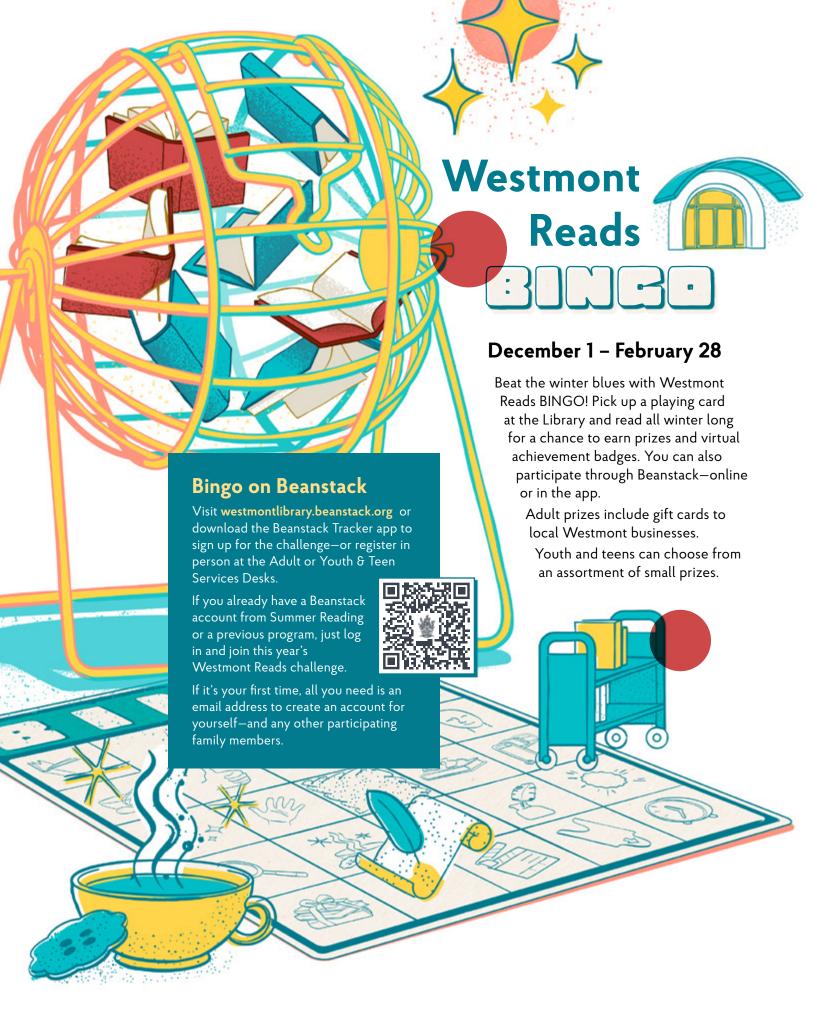
Page 2

**Print from home** 

Page 10

Puzzle & Game Swap

Back cover





# **Tiny Art Show**

February 13 – 27 Art Gallery (1st floor)

Enjoy community creativity on display! Visit the first floor Art Gallery to see all the Tiny Art canvases. Vote for your favorite painting from February 13 to 19.



Vote for your favorite in each age group from February 13 to 19.



Pickup starts Monday, January 19 Return by Monday, February 9

Pick up a kit, starting January 19, at the Adult or Youth & Teen Services Desk. Then complete your painting and return your canvas to the Library before February 9. Kits are available while supplies last.





#### Paint a Tiny Masterpiece

Paint a tiny, 4" × 4" masterpiece at the Library! All supplies will be provided. Artwork will remain at the Library for the Tiny Art Show from February 13 to 27. Turn to Family (pg 4), Grade School (pg 5), Teen (pg 6), and Adult (pg 8) for dates and times.





# **Musical Instrument Drop-off**

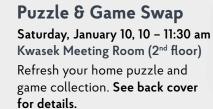
Saturday, December 6, 1 – 3 pm Kwasek Meeting Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Drop off your gently used musical instruments at the Library and we'll deliver them to SCARCE where they will be available to teachers and nonprofit musical professionals. Instruments should be small to medium sized —up to the size of a guitar—and must weigh less than 30 pounds.



# Frosty & Friends Parade

Saturday, December 6, 5 – 6 pm Cass Ave, Downtown Westmont Mark your calendars for the Holly Days Frosty & Friends Parade, where you can see your Library staff walk in the parade.





#### Adaptive Playtime 🗹

#### Saturday, December 6, 10 - 10:45 am

This inclusive playtime is especially welcoming for children with sensory processing challenges and adaptive needs. We'll share a story, rhymes, and openended activities for free play in a small group environment.

0 - 6 years with a caregiver

#### Pete the Cat Party 🗷

Thursday, December 11, 10 - 10:45 am

We'll read a story and do activities and crafts all with a Pete the Cat theme. 2 - 6 years with a caregiver

#### **New Year's Eve Dance Party**

Tuesday, December 30, 10 - 10:45 am

Celebrate the coming new year with music, dancing, and bubbles! 0 - 6 years with a caregiver

### Saturday Music & **Movement Storytime**

Saturdays, January 3 and February 21 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

#### Preschool Skills 🗷

Tuesday, January 6, 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

#### Happy Hearts Storytime & Craft

Thursday, February 12, 10 - 10:45 am

Join us for a storytime and craft celebrating friendship and love.

0 - 6 years with a caregiver

#### Nature Storytime with The Morton Arboretum

Tuesday, February 10, 10 - 10:30 am

A presenter from The Morton Arboretum will share stories about how weather, trees, and animals change with the seasons!

#### **Discovery Playtime**

Tuesday, February 17 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



# Weekly storytimes

# Spanish Language Storytime

Mondays, 10 - 10:30 am January 5 - 26

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 January 7 – 28

Drop in for these storytimes filled with music, movement, and stories. 0 - 6 years with a caregiver

# Lapsit Storytime 📝

January 6 - 29 Choose one series from:

▲ 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. Please sign up for only one series.

0 - 24 months with a caregiver

# 2 & 3 Storytime 🗷

January 6 - 29

Choose one series 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. Please sign up for only one series. 2 - 3 years with a caregiver

# **Drop-in Craft**

Tuesdays, Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3 Youth & Teen Services (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Drop in and get creative! Crafts are designed for preschool and grade school audiences. While supplies last.

Dec. 2: Create two wood ornaments-one for yourself and one for the Library's Holly Days tree!

Jan. 6: Beaded snowflake

Feb 3: Hugging card



#### **Jumbo Board Games**

Reading Council.

Tuesday, December 23 and Friday, December 26

Drop in to play a JUMBO board game with your family—bigger games mean bigger family fun!

#### Paint a Tiny Masterpiece

Saturday, January 31, 9:30 - 11:30 am

Paint a tiny, 4" × 4" masterpiece! All supplies will be provided. Artwork will remain at the Library for the

Tiny Art Show through February 27.



# Spotlight on youth reads: Make something! V



Hands: Growing Up to Be an Artist

Lois Ehlert

- > Unique
- > Colorful
- > Picture book

# Sewing School

Amie Petronis Plumlev & Andria Lisle

- > Projects
- > Patterns
- > Easy to follow



- > Woodwork
- > Jewelry
- > Painting and more



The Crafting Encyclopedia Zoey Schrader





The Cartoonists Club Raina Telgemeier & Scott McCloud

- > Graphic novel
- > Friendship
- > How-to: drawing and comics

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



# Grades K - 2

#### Read to the Dogs 🗷

Tuesdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm December 9, January 13, February 10

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

#### Abominable Snowman 📝

Thursday, January 22, 4:15 - 5 pm

Make your own frosty abominable snowman in this fun winter-themed art program.

#### Fingerprint Art

Thursday, February 19, 4:15 - 5 pm

Turn simple fingerprints into playful art inspired by Ed Emberley!



# Grades 3 - 5

#### DIY Coasters 2

Thursday, January 15, 4:15 - 5 pm

Design your own coaster, perfect for chilly nights and hot cocoa!

#### Perler Beads

Thursday, February 26, 4:15 - 5 pm Join us to create fun and colorful perler bead art.



# **Westmont Reads Bingo**

Score a bingo by reading for a chance to earn prizes. Pick up a bingo card at the Library or participate online through Beanstack. All ages can play! See page 1 for details.

# Grades K - 5

# Homeschool Hangout

Mondays, December 1 and February 2 11 am - noon

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



# Sensory Stations 🗷

Thursday, December 4, 4:15 - 5 pm Experience hands-on sensory play that's full of texture and fun.

# Clay Gingerbread Man 📝

Thursday, December 18, 4:15 - 5 pm Shape and decorate a charming little gingerbread friend out of clay! No baking required.

# Paint a Tiny Masterpiece 3

Thursday, January 29, 4:15 - 5 pm

Paint a tiny, 4" × 4" masterpiece! All supplies will be provided. Artwork will remain at the Library for the Tiny Art Show through February 27. See page 2 for more information, including kit availability.

#### **Brain Games**

Monday, February 16, 10 am - noon

Kids in grades K - 5 and their adults are invited to enjoy puzzles, logic games, and fun challenges. Play, solve, and think together! Grades K - 5 with a caregiver



# Calling all game fans and puzzle masters!

Pick up some new-to-you games or puzzles at our Puzzle & Game Swap on January 10. See the back cover for details, including drop-off dates.



#### Charm Creations &

Wednesday, December 3, 4 - 5 pm

Craft unique charms for a phone strap, bracelet, or other accessory using shrink plastic, a 3D pen, beads, and more.

#### Crafting for a Cause &

Wednesdays, 6 - 7 pm December 10, January 14, February 11

Earn a service hour for attending and participating.

Dec. 10: Handwritten letters for cancer patients (Kits to Heart)

Jan. 14: Dog and cat toys (Hinsdale Humane Society)

Feb. 11: No-sew fleece blankets for local cancer patients (Phil's Friends)

### Teen Hangout

Wednesdays, 3 - 4:30 pm December 17, January 21, February 18

Drop in to play video games or board games, socialize, and make crafts.

#### Titanic Murder Mystery 📝

Monday, December 29, 6 - 7:30 pm

On the eve of the Titanic's departure, a terrible murder occurred, casting a dark shadow on an otherwise celebratory atmosphere. You'll be one of the eight guests suspected of the crime as we go through all evidence to decide who committed the heinous act. Grades 9 - 12

### Sewing Basics Series 🗹

Mondays, January 12 & 19 4 - 5 pm OR 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Community Meeting Room (1st floor)

Learn the basics of sewing and using a sewing machine. Attend two sessions and come out with new skills and a fun project!



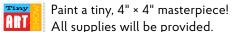
#### Teen Advisory Committee 🗹

Wednesdays, January 28 and February 25 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Meet with other teens to discuss programs, books, and what you would like to see happen in the Library. Earn volunteer hours for attending. Note: There will be no meeting in December.

#### Paint a Tiny Masterpiece 📝

Thursday, January 29, 6:30 - 7:30 pm



Artwork will remain at the Library for the Tiny Art Show through February 27. See page 2 for more information,

including kit availability.

#### Whodunit Club @

Monday, February 16, 3:30 - 4:30 pm

Test your detective skills and work together to solve a mystery before time runs out. Grades 6 - 8

# Spotlight on **YA reads: make something! V**



#### Creative Crafts for Teens Jennifer Perkins

- > Self-expression
- > Hands-on projects
- > Basic materials



- > How-to advice
- Inspiring
- > Self-confidence



# Dani Banani

- > Sculpting techniques
- > Adorable creations



# Crafting Cute

- > Simple projects





- > Graphic novel
- > Weaving
- > Magic





- > Shonen manga > Illustration
- > Basic techniques



#### Cards. Crafts. and Conversation

Mondays, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm December 1, January 5, February 2

Drop in for casual card playing, assorted crafting, and pleasant conversation. We'll have cards, coloring pages, and various craft supplies on hand. Relax and chat while enjoying a cup of tea.

#### Handling Hearing Loss &

Tuesday, December 2, 1 - 2 pm

Carol Johnson-N-CHATT trainer and leader of Help Us Hear (HUH)-will discuss possible options, what to expect, and how to find an audiologist or instrument specialist.

#### Winter Watercolor Workshop

Thursday, December 4, 1 - 2:30 pm

Join us for a cozy watercolor workshop and bring a magical winter scene to life with a curious deer who meets a snowman. Led by local artist Mary Launi.

# Westmont Reads Bingo

Score a bingo by reading for a chance to earn prizes. Pick up a bingo card at the Library or participate online through Beanstack. All ages can play! See page 1 for details.



#### Dungeons & Dragons Club

Thursdays, 5:30 - 7:30 pm December 11, January 8, February 12

Join us on the second Thursday of the month for D&D at the Library! Whether you're playing for the first time or are a seasoned veteran, everyone is welcome. This level one campaign will be ongoing and will meet once a month, but players are not required to attend every session.

#### Chair Yoga 🗷

Fridays, 10:30 - 11 am December 12, January 9, February 13 Kwasek Meeting Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Join us for 30 minutes of chair yoga led by Michelle Schumacker of Good Juju Yoga.

### **Emergency Preparedness** & Hands-Only CPR

Friday, December 12, 1 - 2 pm

The DuPage County Health Department's Medical Reserve Corps will discuss emergency preparedness and hands-only CPR. They'll demonstrate basic life-saving skills for cardiac emergencies and offer tools and tips for staying ready in various types of emergencies.

#### Cinnamon Stick Himmeli Ornament 📝

Monday, December 15, 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Himmeli are traditional Finnish ornaments typically made out of straw and bound together with string to form geometric shapes. Come create a festive himmeliinspired ornament out of cinnamon sticks.

# **Brain Bootcamp**

Wednesdays, 10 - 11 am December 17, January 28, February 25

Give your brain a light workout with brain teasers, trivia, and more. This program is great for older adults and seniors who want to keep their minds active!

# New year, new fun

Pick up some new-to-you games or puzzles at our Puzzle & Game Swap on January 10. See the back cover for details, including drop-off dates.

#### Bingo!

Mondays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm December 22, January 26, February 23

Join us once a month for bingo. Winners will receive a small prize from our prize

# Winter Cardinal Collage 🗷

Tuesday, January 20, 1 - 2 pm

Join us to craft a cardinal in a beautiful winter scene with a variety of materials.

#### **Drop-in Board Games**

Wednesdays, January 21 and February 18 5 - 7:30 pm

Drop in for some board game fun. Learn a new game from the Library's collection or bring your own!

#### AI 101 🗷

Thursday, January 22 2 - 3 pm OR 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Do you want to learn more about artificial intelligence (AI)? Join us to learn what AI is, how it's being used in society, and the pros and cons of using it yourself.

#### Explore Your Library Apps &

Saturday, January 24, 2 - 3 pm OR Tuesday, February 24, 10 - 11 am

Join us for an overview of the apps available to enhance your library experience: SWAN Libraries +, PressReader, and Libby.

#### Paint a Tiny Masterpiece 🗷

Saturday, Jan. 31, 2 - 3:30 pm OR Wednesday, Feb. 4, 6 - 7:30 pm

Paint a tiny, 4" × 4" masterpiece! All supplies will be provided. Artwork will remain at the Library for the Tiny Art Show from February 13 to 27. See page 2 for more information

on the Tiny Art Show, including kit availability.



#### A Sherlock Holmes Mystery &

Thursday, January 29, 6 - 7:30 pm

As you immerse yourself in the gaslit streets of Victorian London, you'll trace evidence, inspect clues, and track down leads to solve the mystery and find out if your detective skills are as sharp as the master sleuth himself.

#### Hand Embroidery: Felt Conversation Hearts &

Tuesday, February 3, 1 - 2 pm

Get ready for Valentine's Day by sewing your own mini felt conversation hearts.

### Backyard Chicken Basics &

Monday, February 9, 6 - 7 pm

Thinking about having backyard chickens? Learn the basics of keeping chickens, including the permits and supplies you will need, as well as some general chicken care. Presented by local chicken owners Kim Smith and Pat Miller.

# Spotlight on adult reads: make something!



Get Messy Art Caylee Grey > Watercolor. acrylic, ink, and marker



The Total Inventor's Manual Sean Michael Ragan > CAD, 3D printing,

and robotics



EVERYDAY MATERIALS

CREATIVE PROJECTS

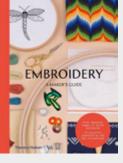
Creative Projects Using **Everyday Materials** Edited by Noah Weinstein

- > Reuse and repurpose
- > Fun projects



Embroiderv: A Maker's Guide Faye Robson

- > Getting started
- > Levelling up
- > New techniques



Check out the **Punch** Needle Kit from the Library of Things westmontlibrary.org/ LoT—and try some of these great, easy



punch needle projects!



Pretty Punch Needle

Andie Solar

> Beginner- and

kid-friendly

> Fun, colorful

projects

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



# Create with the Makery

# Embroidery Basics &

Monday, December 8 1:30 - 3:30 pm OR 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Join us for an introduction to the Library's embroidery machine. Learn the basics of setting up and running the machine, and then monogram a tea towel to take home! Please sign up for one session only.

### Gift Tags & Bows 🗹

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 10:30 – 11:30 am OR Thursday, Dec. 18, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Learn to create your own custom gift tags with the Library's Silhouette Cameo and craft handmade gift bows with recycled materials. If you would like to bring a gift with you to wrap, materials will be provided!

#### Custom Stickers 2

Saturday, December 13, 2 - 3:30 pm

Learn to design and cut out custom stickers using the Library's Silhouette Cameo and its sketch pens!

# Sewing Basics: Reusable Hand Warmers

Wednesday, January 14 1:30 - 3:30 pm OR 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Receive a quick introduction to the Library's sewing machines, then sew a reusable hand warmer to take home! Please sign up for one session only.

# Create a Scanned Photo Collage 📝

Saturday, January 17, 2 – 3 pm

Bring in up to six photos to scan while learning about our new photo scanner. You'll learn some basic photo editing, and then use Canva to create a photo collage. A Canva account is recommended. If you need help signing up, please come early for assistance. You may also bring a USB drive to save your photos digitally.

#### Cute & Simple Valentine

Saturday, February 7, 2 – 3 pm

See our Silhouette cutter in action and make a Valentine for your sweetie, your crush, or your pet! Bring a small picture (maximum 2" × 2") to make it extra special. Please show up early if you would like help printing a picture.

### **Custom Window Clings**

Saturday, February 28, 2 – 3:30 pm Kwasek Meeting Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) Learn how to design and cut custom window clings using the Library's Silhouette Cameo.



#### Smart Device App Basics &

Tuesday, February 10, 1-2 pm OR Thursday, February 19, 2 - 3 pm

Learn what "apps" are and review some of the best apps available for your smartphone or tablet to find out which ones are best for you!

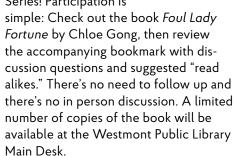
CHLOE GONG

FOUL

# Great Read Passive Book Discussion

February 16 - March 9

Join us for a Passive Book Discussion in connection with College of DuPage's Great Read Series! Participation is



# Aging Well for 55+: Financial Exploitation and Prevention &

Tuesday, February 17, 1 – 2 pm

In this program, John Bruner with Hinsdale Bank will discuss different types of financial exploitation. You will learn about important guidelines and resources intended to help you identify and protect yourself.

# Identifying Al Images 🗹

Thursday, February 19, 6:30 – 7:30 pm OR Thursday, February 26, 11 am – noon

Artificial intelligence (AI) images are popping up everywhere. Discover how AI images are made, then learn some tips for spotting them in your daily life.

# Print from home. Pick it up at the Library.

Need to print something? With remote printing, you can securely send a file from your device to our printers.

#### It's convenient.

You can send prints in 3 ways: via a website, app, or email.

#### It's private.

When you submit a file, it's securely and temporarily stored in the cloud, until you visit the kiosk in our Computer Lab and enter your credentials to print it.

#### It's affordable.

Grayscale (b&w) prints are \$0.10 per sheet of paper, and color prints are \$0.50 per sheet.

Learn more or submit a print at westmontlibrary.org/print.

# Dementia Friendly Westmont

# Songs of the Season with a Twist! ✓ Wednesday, December 3, 1 – 2 pm

Kwasek Meeting Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

We're moving away from our usual educational format to bring you a performance by award-winning vocalist and national recording artist Maureen Christine, who will be singing classic hits from the 50s, 60s, and 70s. Get ready to sing along and tap your feet to the music!

#### Memory Cafe 🗷

Mondays, 1 – 2 pm December 15, January 19, February 16 Kwasek Meeting Room (2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

#### 

Wednesday, January 7, 1 - 2:30 pm

This Academy Award Feature
Documentary Nominee chronicles the
various stages of a mother's Alzheimer's
disease and the evolution of a daughter's
response to the illness. A short discussion will take place after the movie.
Presented by Patti Terkovich and Mary
Ferguson from Birches Assisted Living &
Memory Care.

# Understanding the Stages of Alzheimer's 🗷

Wednesday, February 4, 1 - 2:30 pm

Without question every person's dementia progression is unique. In this program, Patti Terkovich and Mary Ferguson with Birches Assisted Living & Memory Care will provide a useful frame of reference for what is typically seen. Knowing what to expect can help caregivers know what to anticipate, allow time to plan accordingly, and help reduce the stress of the unknown.

# Ongoing programs

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

#### **Team Trivia**

Mondays, 7 – 9 pm December 1, January 5, February 2 Zazzo's Pizza & Bar, 200 W Ogden Ave.

# Spice Club: Cardamom 🗹

Monday, December 15, 7 – 7:45 pm

# 4th Monday Book Club

Mondays, 6:45 – 7:45 pm December 22, January 26, February 23

# Cookbook Club: Nadiya Bakes by Nadiya Hussain Monday, February 16, 7 - 7:45 pm

# Westmont Gardening Club

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:45 pm December 2 and February 3

Note: There will be no meeting in January.

# Unreal World Book Club 🗷

Tuesdays, 7 – 8 pm December 2, January 6, February 3 Virtual: Zoom

#### Knit Clique

Tuesdays, 6 – 7:45 pm December 9 & 23, January 13 & 27, February 10 & 24

# Writers Group

Thursdays, 6 – 7:45 pm Dec. 11, Jan. 8 & 22, Feb. 12 & 26 Study Room I (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

# **English Conversation Group**

Saturdays, 10 – 11:30 am Dec. 13, Jan. 10 & 24, Feb. 14 & 28\*

\*Note: The meeting on February 28 will be held in the second floor Kwasek Meeting Room.



### Library hours

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

#### Scheduled closings

Wednesday, November 26 (5 pm close) Thursday, November 27 Wednesday, December 24 Thursday, December 25 Wednesday, December 31 Thursday, January 1

### 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

Jason Fichtel, President Elaine Carmichael, Vice President Kerry O'Connor, Treasurer Heather Booth, Secretary Melissa Donoghue, Trustee Beth Krotiak, Trustee Joanne O'Malley, Trustee

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



Printed on 10% post-consumer recycled content paper.



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.