



WESTMONT
PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE EXPLORER

December 2024, January & February 2025

Westmont Reads Bingo 2025

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Westmont Reads

BINGO

December 1 – February 28

Beat the winter blues with Westmont Reads BINGO! Pick up a playing card at the Library and read all winter long for a chance to earn prizes and virtual achievement badges. You can also participate through Beanstack, online or in the app.

Adult prizes include gift cards to local Westmont businesses.

Youth and teens can choose from an assortment of small prizes.

Bingo on Beanstack

Visit westmontlibrary.beanstack.org or download the Beanstack Tracker app to sign up for the challenge—or register in person at the Adult or Youth & Teen Services Desks.

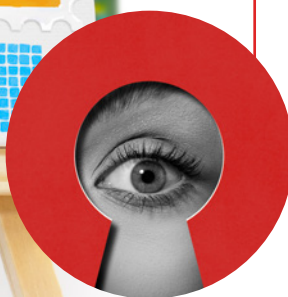
If you already have a Beanstack account from Summer Reading or a previous program, just log in and join this year's Westmont Reads challenge. If it's your first time, all you need is an email address to create an account for yourself—and any participating family members.

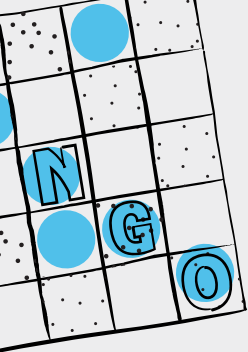


Tiny Art Show

February 14 – 28
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 14 to 23.





Songs & Stories

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
Nov. 6, Dec. 4, Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar 5
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.



Frosty & Friends Parade

Saturday, December 7, 5 – 6 pm
Cass Ave. in Downtown Westmont



Mark your calendars for the Holly Days Frosty & Friends Parade, where you can see your Library staff as we walk in the parade.



Tiny Art Kits

Pick up starting Monday, January 20
Return by Monday, February 10

Pick up a kit containing a mini canvas, paints, and a brush, while supplies last. Return your finished painting by February 10 to be featured in the Tiny Art Show. All ages can participate. Kits will be available on a first come, first served basis from the Adult Desk and Youth & Teen Desk.

Paint a Tiny Masterpiece

Paint a tiny, 4" x 4" masterpiece at the Library! All supplies will be provided. Artwork will remain at the Library for the Tiny Art Show from February 14 to 28. Turn to **Family** (pg 4), **Grade School** (pg 5), **Teen** (pg 6), and **Adult** (pg 9) for dates and times.



EARLY CHILDHOOD (Ages 0 – 6)

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

Take-home Craft Kits

Tuesdays, Dec. 3, Jan. 7, Feb. 4
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**

Polar Playdate

Thursday, December 12, 10 – 11:30 am

Celebrate the cold weather with a special arctic-themed art, sensory, and educational playtime. **18 months – 5 years with a caregiver**

Saturday Music & Movement Storytime

Saturdays, December 21 and February 15
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**

New Year Storytime & Craft

Monday, December 30, 10 – 10:45 am

Get ready to welcome the New Year with a holiday themed storytime and craft activity. **0 – 6 years with a caregiver**

Adaptive Storytime

Saturday, January 4, 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**

Preschool Skills

Tuesdays, January 7 and February 4
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, February 4, 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

Tuesday, February 11
10 – 11:30 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 6 – 27

Drop in with your little one to enjoy songs and stories in Spanish. Presented by The Language Labs.
0 – 6 years with a caregiver

Lapsit Storytime

January 7 – 30

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 finger-plays and hear stories in a low-key environment with their caregivers. Please register for one session only.
0 – 24 months with a caregiver

Music & Movement Storytime

Wednesdays, 10 – 10:30 am
January 8 – 29

Youth & Teen Services (2nd floor)

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

2 & 3 Storytime

January 7 – 30

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. Please register for one session only.
2 – 3 years with a caregiver

Family Ornament Decorating

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 9:30 am – 7:30 pm

Create two wooden ornaments—one for yourself and one for the Library's Holly Days tree!

Jumbo Board Games

Thursday, Dec. 26, 9:30 am – 7:30 pm
and Friday, Dec. 27, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

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

- ▲ Check out our **Game & Puzzle Swap** on February 1 for an opportunity to reroll your home game and puzzle collection! See the back cover for details.



Winter Break Drop-in Crafts

Thursday, January 2, 9:30 am – 7:30 pm
and Friday, January 3, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
Youth & Teen Services (2nd floor)

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

Family Fort Night

Friday, January 10, 4:45 – 6:45 pm

Bring your own blankets or sheets, pillows, and a flashlight to build your fort. Enjoy songs together around the “campfire” and 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.

Paint a Tiny Masterpiece

Saturday, February 8, 10 am – noon

Paint a tiny, 4" × 4" masterpiece! All supplies will be provided. Artwork will remain at the Library for the Tiny Art Show from February 14 to 28.

Friendship Crafts

Friday, February 14, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm
Youth & Teen Services (2nd floor)

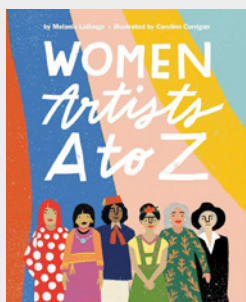
Drop in and get creative! Crafts are designed for preschool and grade school audiences. Available while supplies last.

The Floor is Lava Challenge

Monday, February 17, 10 am – noon

How many of our little bears can you save by stacking various items to save them from the lava? This is a great challenge for the whole family to work together and design the best solution!

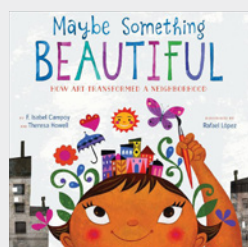
Spotlight on youth reads about art and artists



Women Artists A to Z
Melanie LaBarge
& Caroline Corrigan

- > Informational picture book
- > Artist profiles
- > Styles & media

Maybe Something Beautiful
F. Isabel Campoy,
Theresa Howell
& Rafael López



- > Picture book
- > Urban art
- > Neighborhood joy

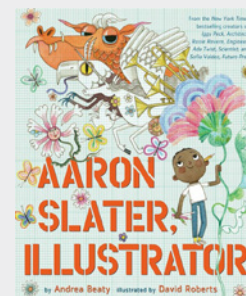


Doodleville
Chad Sell

- > Graphic novel
- > Chicago
- > Art that comes alive

The Van Gogh Deception
Deron Hicks

- > Chapter book
- > Fast-paced mystery
- > National Gallery of Art



Aaron Slater, Illustrator
Andrea Beaty
& David Roberts

- > Picture book
- > Celebrating differences
- > Art as communication

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



Grades K – 5

Switch Meetup

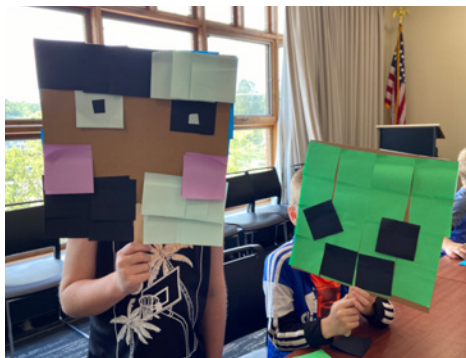
Thursday, December 12, 4:15 – 5:15 pm

Bring your Switch and play alongside other gamers. Try out games from the library or bring your own. Meet other kids who like to play, and check out gaming books. No devices will be provided; attendees will need to bring their own.

Audiobook Club

Thursday, January 30, 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 while you listen



Paint a Tiny Masterpiece

Thursday, February 6, 4:15 – 5:15 am

Paint a tiny, 4" x 4" masterpiece! All supplies will be provided. Artwork will remain at the Library for the Tiny Art Show from February 14 to 28.

STEM Stations

Saturday, February 22, 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**

Art Studio

Thursday, February 27, 4:15 – 5:15 pm

We're opening the craft closet! Come and create a unique masterpiece with us!

Grades K – 2

READ with Hinsdale Humane Society

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm
December 10, January 14, February 11

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

Painted Trains

Thursday, December 19, 4:15 – 5 pm

All aboard! Join us to paint your own wooden train.

Pinecone Pals

Thursday, January 9, 4:15 – 5 pm

Come and craft your very own cute pinecone pal!

Wags to Whiskers

Thursday, January 23, 4:15 – 5 pm

Through games and activities, students will learn how body language reveals what our animal friends feel, which helps us interact safely with them. Presented by DuPage County Animal Control.

Snowglobe Pictures

Thursday, February 13, 4:15 – 5 pm

Create your own snowy scene! Each child will craft a 2D snow globe picture.

Grades 3 – 5

Snowy Luminaries

Thursday, December 5, 4:15 – 5 pm

Bring a warm glow to your winter evenings by making your own snowy luminary jar.

Comic Fans Hangout

Thursday, January 16, 4:15 – 5 pm

Develop your own character, draw comic panels, and explore stories with fellow comic book fans.

Explore Printmaking

Thursday, February 20, 4:15 – 5:15 pm

Try printmaking and experiment with different ways of making pictures.

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!

Dec: *You'd Be Home Now* by Kathleen Glasgow or *The Collectors* edited by A. S. King

Jan: *Impossible Escape* by Steven Sheinkin or *Artifice* by Sharon Cameron

Feb: *Slay* by Brittney Morris or *Promise Boys* by Nick Brooks

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.

Dec. 2 – 23: Worry Stones

Jan. 6 – 27: Handwarmers

Feb. 3 – 24: Friendship Bracelets

Diamond Painting & Hot Chocolate

Wednesday, December 11, 6 – 7:30 pm

Drink hot chocolate while you create diamond artwork.

Teen Advisory Committee

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

December 18, January 29, February 26

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

Wizard of Oz Murder Mystery

Wednesday, January 15, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

A shadow falls across the peaceful land of Oz. The Wizard's "accidental death" looks like it was... murder! Join Dorothy and her friends on a heroic quest to restore magic, and save the kingdom.

DIY Clocks

Wednesday, January 22, 6 – 7:30 pm

Start the year off by creating your own clock using paint, old books and comics, and other decorative items, while learning the mechanisms of the device.

Paint a Tiny Masterpiece

Wednesday, February 5, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Paint a tiny, 4" x 4" masterpiece! All supplies will be provided. Artwork will remain at the Library for the Tiny Art Show from February 14 to 28.

▲ Can't make it? Pick up a kit of supplies to create a piece for the **Tiny Art Show** on your own! See pages 1 – 2 for details.



Spotlight on YA reads about art and artists ▼



Art Club

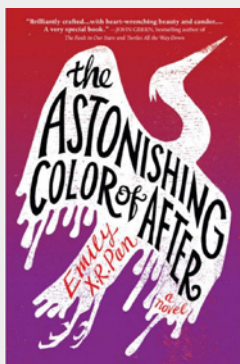
Rashad Doucet

- > Graphic novel
- > Contemporary
- > Save the arts

A Forgery of Roses

Jessica S. Olson

- > Fantasy
- > Romance
- > Portrait magic



The Astonishing Color of After

Emily X. R. Pan

- > Magical realism
- > Grief
- > Romance

Eliza and Her Monsters

Francesca Zappia

- > Realistic fiction
- > Mental health
- > Webcomics



Punching the Air

Ibi Zoboi & Yusef Salaam

- > Verse novel
- > Incarceration
- > Racism

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



Retirement: More Than Money

Wednesday, December 4, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

In this program, we'll take a look at the elements of a successful retirement. We'll also talk about finding purpose after leaving the workforce and discuss ways to help you prepare and adapt. You will be provided with the tools needed to help you determine when you are ready to retire. Presented by Greg Kurniec with the Society of Financial Awareness.

Self-defense for Seniors

Saturday, December 7, 10:30 – 11:30 am
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Learn to use verbal skills to de-escalate a situation, comply with personal property demands, and as a last resort, use simple self-defense techniques to disable an attacker. Martial artist Peter Honigmann will also share inspiring stories of other seniors who have successfully defended themselves.

Pearl Harbor: A Day of Infamy

Wednesday, December 11, 6 – 7:30 pm

Battlefield expert Robert Mueller reviews why and how the Japanese military almost wiped out the American Pacific Fleet. The program ends with a review of the surviving relics.

Mobile DMV

Monday, December 16, 10 am – 2 pm

During this event, you will be able to apply for a new, renewal, or correction of your Illinois State ID. You can also apply for renewal or correction of your Illinois State Driver's License, register for Real ID, and register as an organ/tissue donor. Driving tests will not be administered. Presented in partnership with the office of Representative Jenn Ladisch-Douglass. To register, call 630 413 1080.

Winter Drink Coasters

Wednesday, December 18, 6 – 7 pm

Paint a winter-themed drink coaster to rest your hot chocolate on!

Gratitude Jars

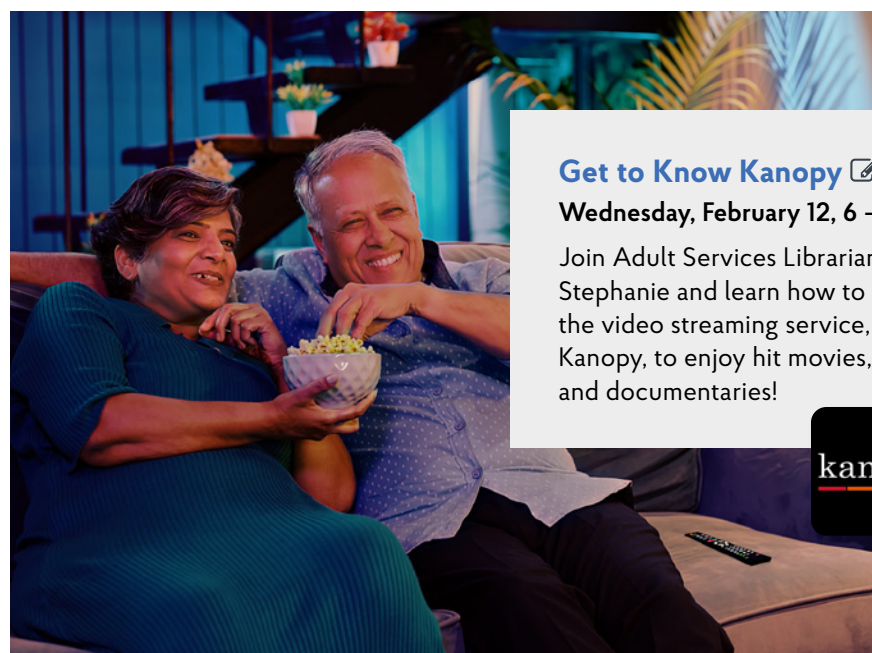
Thursday, January 9, 1 – 2 pm

The new year is a perfect time to remember the things you are thankful for. Write down what you appreciate in your life, fold the paper into tiny origami stars, and watch your jar fill with gratitude. We will use the Silhouette Cameo vinyl cutter to create unique labels for your jar!

New Year, New Device

Friday, January 10, 10 – 11 am

Looking for a new laptop, phone, or tablet? Let Adult Services Librarian Sara help you figure out which one is right for you!



Get to Know Kanopy

Wednesday, February 12, 6 – 7 pm

Join Adult Services Librarian Stephanie and learn how to use the video streaming service, Kanopy, to enjoy hit movies, series, and documentaries!

kanopy

Chair Yoga

Fridays, 10 – 10:30 am
December 6, January 3, February 7
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

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

Sound Meditation

Monday, December 9, 2:30 – 3:30 pm
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Join facilitator Dana Joyce for an experience in sound meditation, using sounds and vibrations from instruments such as crystal bowls, flutes, and chimes. Dress comfortably and bring a yoga mat, blanket, or pillow if you would like to lie down. Chairs will be provided.

Author Talk: Shazad Carbaidwala

Wednesday, January 15, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

In this program, local author Shazad Carbaidwala returns to discuss his novel, Row. Shazad will address the context of the book from the eyes of the narrator, as well as his personal experiences with self-publishing.

Sewing Basics: Bowl Cozy

Saturday, January 18

10 am – noon OR 2 – 4 pm

Learn to use the Library's sewing machines, then sew a bowl cozy to take home!

Working with Artificial Intelligence

Monday, January 20, 6 – 7:30 pm OR
Thursday, February 6, 11 am – 12:30 pm

Do you have questions about ChatGPT, Google Gemini, or Microsoft Copilot? Bring them to this interactive session with one of our librarians and discover the differences between the platforms, as well as how to utilize the programs in your life.

Library Resources for Self-care

Wednesday, January 22, 6 – 7 pm

Feeling stressed? Visit us for some great self-care ideas that won't break the bank!

Meet PressReader

Tuesday, January 28, 10 – 11 am

Learn how to use our digital service, PressReader, and get access to more than 7000 of the world's top newspapers and magazines.

Check out a Library of Things kit to try something crafty—like our pom pom makers, crochet kit, or bow maker—or test out a new piece of technology.

westmontlibrary.org/LoT

Borrow a board game for some screen-free fun.

We have more than 150 games to check out from our Youth & Teen and Adult collections.

▲ See the back cover for details about our **Game & Puzzle Swap** on February 1.

Make it a movie night with Kanopy. Stream classics, documentaries, and award winners from around the world.

westmontlibrary.org/kanopy

Get cozy using your library card!



Paint a Tiny Masterpiece ✍**Wednesday, January 29, 6 – 7:30 pm****OR Saturday, February 1, 2 – 4 pm**

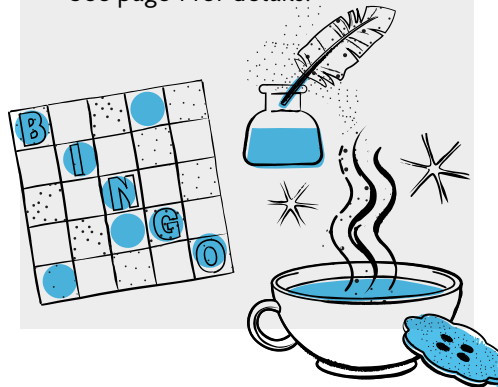
Paint a tiny, 4" × 4" masterpiece! All supplies will be provided. Artwork will remain at the Library for the Tiny Art Show from February 14 to 28.

3D Printing Made Easy ✍**Monday, February 10, 6 – 7 pm OR****Thursday, February 13, 11 am – noon**

Come learn about the Library's 3D printer and see how easy it is to get started. Attendees will receive a voucher for one free 3D print worth up to \$5!

Westmont Reads Bingo

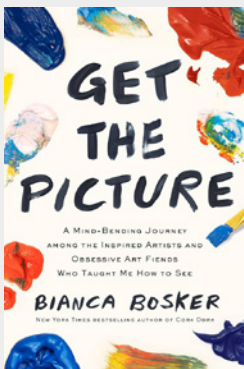
Score a bingo by reading for a chance to earn prizes. Pick up a bingo card at the Library or participate online through Beanstack. All ages can play! See page 1 for details.

**Laminated Bookmarks** ✍**Thursday, February 13, 5:30 – 6:30 pm**

Design and laminate a bookmark using old library due date slips.

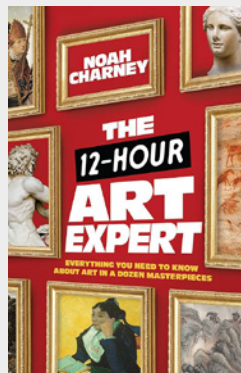
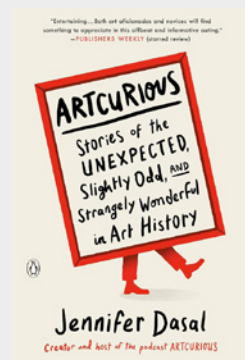
Basic Self-defense for Adults ✍**Tuesday, February 25, 6:30 – 7:30 pm****Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)**

This presentation by martial artist Peter Honigmann will cover the laws of self-defense, situational awareness and de-escalation, as well as simple and effective strikes and techniques to help you protect yourself.

Spotlight on adult reads about art and artists ▼

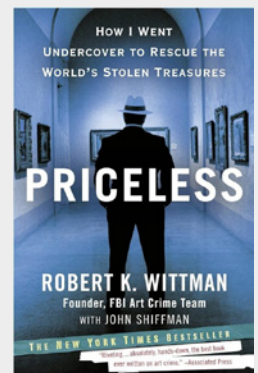
Get the Picture: A Mind-bending Journey Among the Inspired Artists and Obsessive Art Fiends Who Taught Me How to See
Bianca Bosker

Artcurious: Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd, and Strangely Wonderful in Art History
Jennifer Dasal



The 12-Hour Art Expert: Everything You Need to Know About Art in a Dozen Masterpieces
Noah Charney

Miniature Rooms: The Thorne Rooms at the Art Institute of Chicago
The Art Institute of Chicago



Priceless: How I Went Undercover to Rescue the World's Stolen Treasures
Robert K. Wittman

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



Ongoing programs

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

Team Trivia

Mondays, 7 – 9 pm
Dec. 9 & 23, Jan. 6, Feb. 3
Zazzo's Pizza & Bar, 200 W Ogden Ave.

Spice Club: Whole Cloves

Monday, December 16, 7 – 7:45 pm

4th Monday Book Club

Mondays, 6:45 – 7:45 pm
January 27 and February 24
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

Cookbook Club: *What to Cook When You Don't Feel Like Cooking* by Caroline Chambers

Monday, February 17, 7 – 7:45 pm

Westmont Gardening Club

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:45 pm
December 3 and February 4

Unreal World Book Club

Tuesdays, 7 – 8 pm
December 3, January 7, February 4
Virtual: Zoom

Take & Make Craft Kits

Tuesdays, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11
Adult Services Desk (1st floor)

Knit Clique

Tuesdays, 6 – 7:45 pm
Dec. 10, Jan. 14 & 28, Feb. 11 & 25

Writers Group

Thursdays, 6 – 7:45 pm
Dec. 12 & 26, Jan. 9 & 23, Feb. 13 & 27
Study Room I (2nd floor)

English Conversation Group

Saturdays, 10 – 11:30 am
Dec. 14, Jan. 11 & 25, Feb. 8 & 22
Note: There will be no meeting on December 28.



Find your own muse on Creativebug

Get inspired with thousands of on-demand art and craft video tutorials, available with your library card. Classes cover topics from sketching to sewing!

westmontlibrary.org/creativebug

Dementia Friendly Westmont

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 1 – 2:30 pm

This educational program will help you recognize common signs of the disease in yourself and others and the next steps to take, including how to talk to your doctor. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association.

Memory Cafe

Mondays, 1 – 2 pm
Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17
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.

Navigating Challenging Behaviors

Wednesday, January 8, 1 – 2:30 pm

This presentation explores challenging behaviors related to the effects of dementia and discusses potential creative responses to achieve more harmonious outcomes. Presented by Lavon Lenaway from Dragonfly Senior Navigation Services.

Normal Aging vs Dementia

Wednesday, February 5, 1 – 2:30 pm

Join us as we discuss normal aging, dementia symptoms to look for, and steps you can take to address these concerns. Presented by Mary Ferguson with Birches Assisted Living & Memory Care.



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

Wednesday, Nov. 27 (5 pm early close)
Thursday, November 28
Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25
Tuesday, December 31
Wednesday, 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

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Melissa Donoghue, Trustee
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.



Printed on 10% post-consumer recycled content paper.



Puzzle & Game Swap

Drop off your gently used puzzles and board games at the Adult and Youth & Teen Services desks from January 14 to 28. Then come to the swap to find some new-to-you fun! **You do not need to donate to attend the swap.**

Drop-off

January 14 – 28
Adult Desk (1st floor) and
Youth & Teen Desk (2nd floor)

Swap

Saturday, February 1, 10 am – noon
Kwasek Meeting Room (2nd floor)

 **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.