



WPL NEWSLETTER

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 5

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES WITH READING

The days are cold and dark and the sun keeps hiding, leaving us with gray skies day in and out. We are in the thick of the winter blues season, and while hibernation may sound like a fantastic idea, we are not bears. We are humans! As such, we need to be social and active in the winter months to stay healthy.

In order to help us get through this dreary month, our Winter Reading theme this year is Beat the Blues! Adults who register for this challenge can enter to win weekly prizes during the month of February by reading books and completing social activities. We have some great prizes available to win such as a *Blues Zone Kitchen Cookbook*, the *Hygge Game*, a diamond-painting kit, and a book lover's gift set. The more activities completed and books read, the more chances for winning!

For those in grades 5-12, your challenge is to read (as a team) more than Sionna, the YA Librarian. She's just one girl, you say? That one girl read 60 books last February, and is now motivated to read even more! But worry not, there is a reading focused program every week in February to encourage everyone to be social and get more reading done for the challenge. If Sionna loses then all participants will each win the privilege of being "DJ for a Day" in the Teen Space and can submit a playlist of songs to be played on a day of their choice.

Win or lose, hopefully participating in Winter Reading will help our community feel more connected and able to fight off those winter blues. Good luck and stay warm out there!



Beat the Blues Winter Reading Challenge runs from February 1 - 28. Register at Thomas or Hageman Branch.

CONTENTS

Adult Programs	page 4
Young Adult Programs	page 8
Childrens Programs	page 11
Museum Programs	page 14
Virtual Services	page 16

BEAT THE BLUES WINTER READING 2025 CHALLENGE



FEBRUARY 1-28

Adults (ages 18+) and Young Adults (Grades 5-12), are encouraged to read more to beat the winter blues this February.

Participate in person with paper tickets, or online through the Beanstack app or website: wplin.beanstack.com.

Adults can enter to win one of four fantastic weekly prizes.

Young adults--log reading minutes to see if you and your peers can read more than our YA Librarian for the month. Get a tasty treat for participating, and-- if you read more than our YA Librarian-- enjoy "DJ for a day" privileges in our fabulous Teen Space!

Stop by the Library to check out books, audiobooks, or magazines in-person, or get books online using Libby or Hoopla.



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY



beanstack

THOMAS BRANCH • 200 W. INDIANA AVE., CHESTERTON, IN • 219-926-7696

HAGEMAN BRANCH • 100 FRANCIS ST., PORTER, IN • 219-926-9080 • WPL.LIB.IN.US





WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Baughner Center Open House



*Saturday,
February 8
6-8 pm*

- ♥ The Baughner Center renovation is complete, and we want everyone to come see how good we look! 😊
- ♥ Mix and mingle with WPL Trustees and staff members in our refreshed meeting room space.
- ♥ Meet local artists from the Duneland Photography Club, whose work is featured among the new decor.
- ♥ Bring a book to donate to the Friends of the Library, and receive your very own "Blind Date with a Book" to take home with you!



THIS IS A 21+ EVENT

Complimentary appetizers and a cash bar will be provided by Lia's Bella Cucina.

BAUGHER CENTER • 100 W. INDIANA AVE., CHESTERTON, IN • WPL.LIB.IN.US 

STRINGS OF STORY:

The Magic and Music of the Celtic Harp

Tuesday, February 4 • 6:30 PM



Harpist Cindy Shelhart brings her love of Celtic music and storytelling to audiences of all ages, weaving together history, mythology, and mesmerizing melodies. Join her for a captivating presentation blending music, lore, and audience interaction.

This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

Thomas - Bertha Wood Meeting Room

For more information call 219-926-9080.



Popular Books

DISCUSSION GROUP

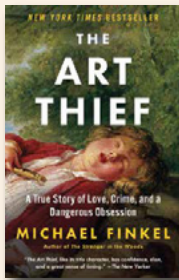
Monday, February 3 • 2-3:30 PM
THOMAS MEETING ROOM

The Art Thief : A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession by Michael Finkel

Explore one of the most remarkable true-crime narratives of the twenty-first century: the story of the world's most prolific art thief, Stéphane Breitwieser. Carrying out more than 200 heists over nearly eight years—in museums and cathedrals all over Europe—Breitwieser, along with his girlfriend who worked as his lookout, stole more than three hundred objects, until it all fell apart in spectacular fashion.

This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

Next Month's Book Club Date: **MARCH 3**



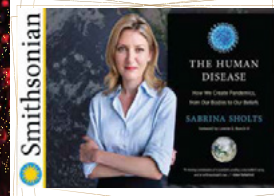
Please call the Thomas Branch at 219-926-7696 for availability.

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February

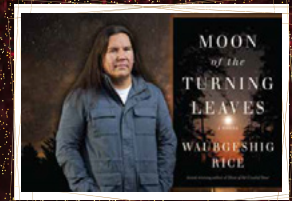
ONLINE AUTHOR TALKS

Westchester Public Library Webinars and Online Events
Registration at: libraryc.org/wpl

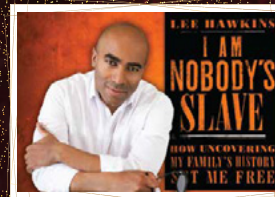


Smithsonian Curator
Sabrina Sholts
Tuesday, February 4
1 PM

Waubgeshig Rice
Tuesday, February 11
6 PM



Lee Hawkins
Tuesday, February 18
1 PM



NIGHT OWL BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, February 26 • 6:30 PM
THOMAS - BERTHA WOOD MEETING ROOM

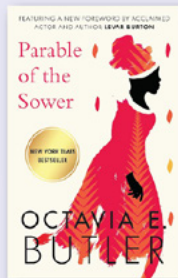
Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler

When global climate change and economic crises lead to social chaos in the early 2020s, California becomes full of dangers. Fifteen-year-old Lauren Olamina lives inside a gated community with her preacher father, her family and neighbors, sheltered from the anarchy. She suffers from hyperempathy, a debilitating sensitivity to others' emotions. Lauren must take steps protect her loved ones from the imminent disasters. What begins as a fight for survival soon leads to the birth of a new faith... and a startling vision of human destiny.

This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

Registration opens **January 27**

Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.



Please call the Thomas Branch at 219-926-7696 for availability.

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WPL BOOK CLUB KITS



Host your own book club with a kit from Westchester Public Library! Each kit includes multiple copies of the same title, and a list of discussion questions.

Create new friendships, strengthen bonds, and learn all sorts of interesting things by sharing a book together.



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

ADULT CRAFT
Valentine's Day
PAINTED BOTTLES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3
1:30 or 6:30PM

Love is in the air, and your valentine is going to adore this illuminated bottle craft! Join us for this beginner-friendly project. For adults ages 18 and up.

BAUGHER CENTER



Registration opens JANUARY 27
 Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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ADULT CRAFT:
CANDY HEART CONE

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 12
1-2 PM



Recapture the childhood joy of conversation hearts by making a candy heart cone to add a sweet spot to your Valentine's Day decorating. This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

HAGEMAN BRANCH
Registration opens
FEBRUARY 5

Register online or by calling 219-926-9080 to reserve your spot.

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Bits & Bytes
February
Classes

For Adults Ages 18 and Up

THOMAS BRANCH- IT CLASSROOM

Windows 11
Wednesday, February 12 • 4-5 PM

Do you need to upgrade to Windows 11? What are the differences and will I be able to navigate Windows 11? Join us as we answer these questions and more about the latest iteration of the Windows Operating System.

Hoopla, Libby & Kanopy
Thursday, February 20 • 4-5 PM

Want to get started with the free digital services of WPL? Join us as we take a look at the digital offerings of the library and how you can take advantage of eBooks, AudioBooks, magazines, and stream music, TV shows and movies for free with our services.


Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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Foundations of
CARD GAME
DESIGN

For Adults Ages 18 and Up

Wednesday,
February 12
6:30-8:30 PM

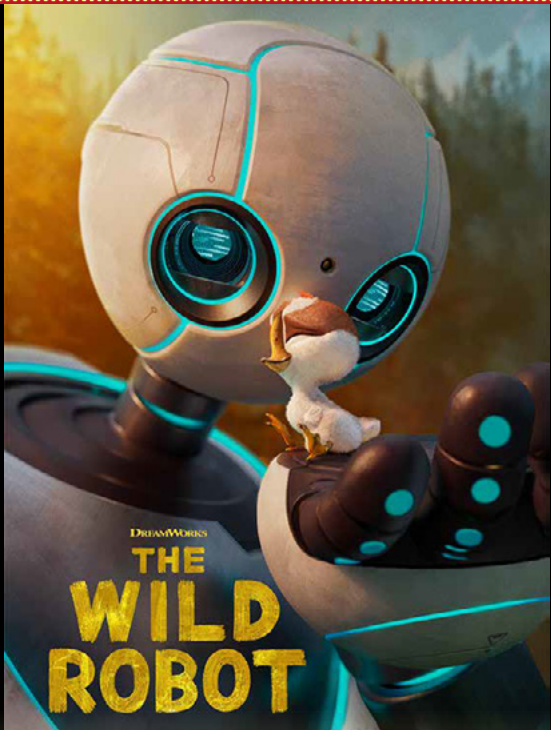


Learn the foundations of the game design process while making your own version of a game to play with friends with experienced local game designer Stefan Barkow.

THOMAS MEETING ROOM

Registration opens **FEBRUARY 5**
 Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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THE WILD ROBOT

RATED PG

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT 1:30 PM
THOMAS BRANCH MEETING ROOM
200 W. INDIANA AVENUE, CHESTERTON, IN

FREE POPCORN!



THE GREAT TASTE REO TEST CHALLENGE

For Adults

Tuesday, March 4

6:30 - 7:30 PM

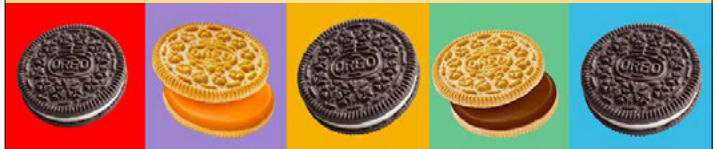
Let's face it...how often do you get to chow down on a selection of the world's most iconic cookies, test out your taste bud prowess, and hang out with the best people in the world?!

This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

THOMAS-BERTA WOOD MEETING ROOM

Registration opens February 25

Register online or call 219-926-9080 to reserve your spot.



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Happy Tales

Sharing everyday, positive interactions to spread "library joy"!



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

From the community group "String-Along Stars and Stripes and Quilts of Valor":

You [WPL] did a beautiful job renovating the Baugher Center! Our group gave a collective "Wow" and it made our day more beautiful.

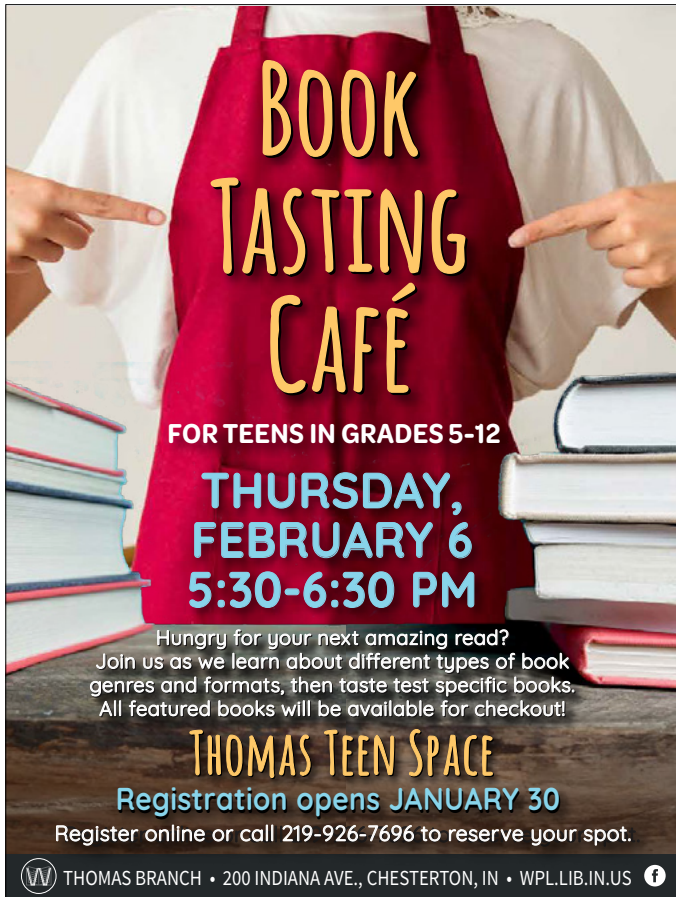
If you've had a Happy Tale at WPL or a special library experience, stop by and tell us about it at the Circulation Desk.

MAKE IT A GAME NIGHT

Our Thomas and Hageman Branches have over 500 games available to check out for patrons of all ages.



FOR TEENS & TWEENS



BOOK TASTING CAFÉ

FOR TEENS IN GRADES 5-12

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6
5:30-6:30 PM

Hungry for your next amazing read? Join us as we learn about different types of book genres and formats, then taste test specific books. All featured books will be available for checkout!

THOMAS TEEN SPACE
Registration opens **JANUARY 30**
Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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PAPER FOOTBALL PARTY

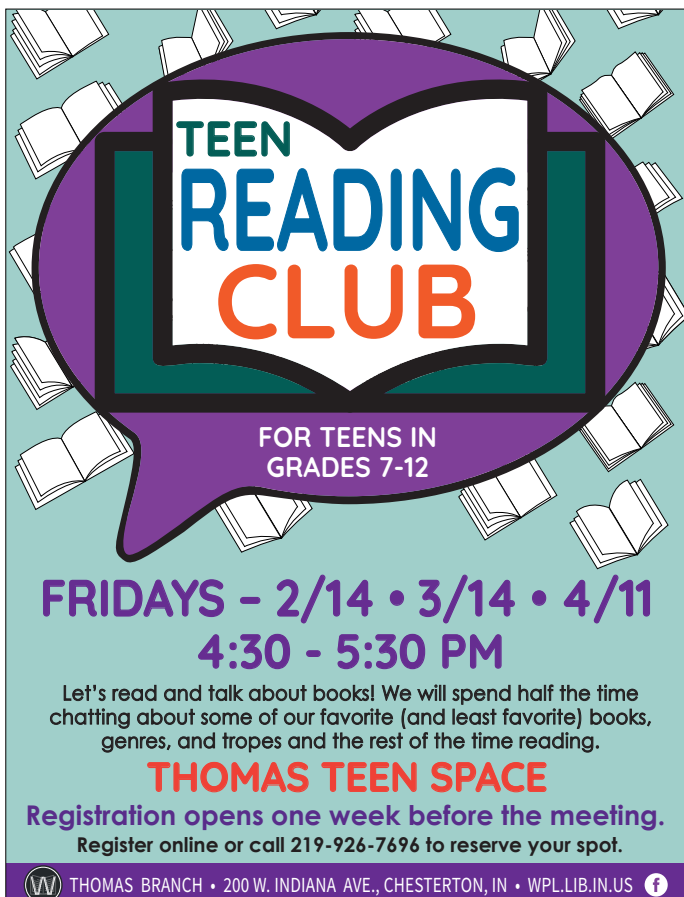
FOR TWEENS & TEENS IN GRADES 5-12

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7
4-5 PM

Get hyped for the big game by joining us for a paper football party! We'll make paper footballs, play paper football games and challenges, and eat snacks.

HAGEMAN BRANCH
Registration opens **JANUARY 31**
Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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TEEN READING CLUB

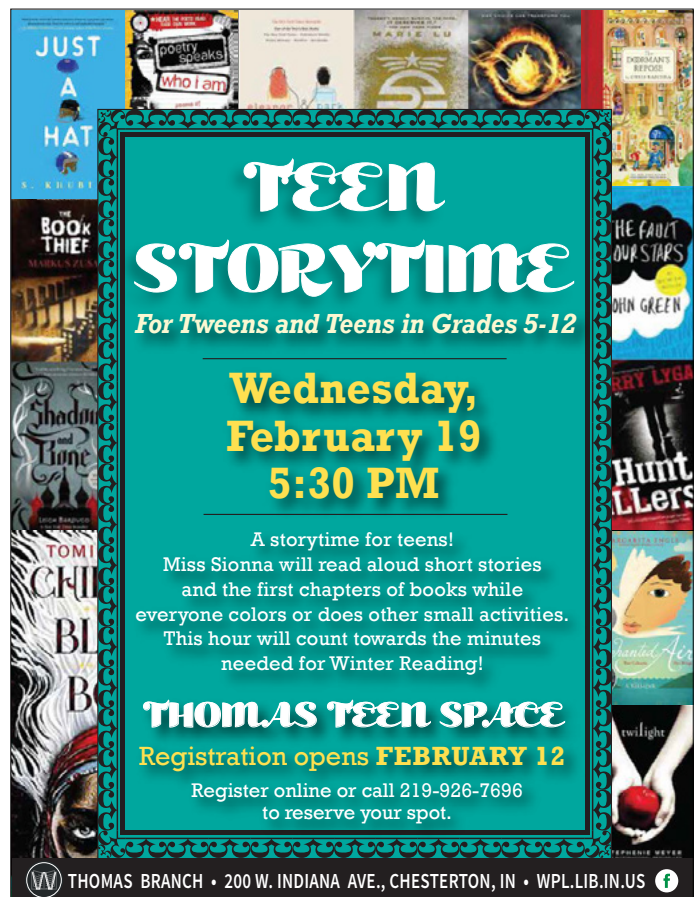
FOR TEENS IN GRADES 7-12

FRIDAYS - 2/14 • 3/14 • 4/11
4:30 - 5:30 PM

Let's read and talk about books! We will spend half the time chatting about some of our favorite (and least favorite) books, genres, and tropes and the rest of the time reading.

THOMAS TEEN SPACE
Registration opens one week before the meeting.
Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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TEEN STORYTIME

For Tweens and Teens in Grades 5-12

Wednesday, February 19
5:30 PM

A storytime for teens! Miss Sienna will read aloud short stories and the first chapters of books while everyone colors or does other small activities. This hour will count towards the minutes needed for Winter Reading!

THOMAS TEEN SPACE
Registration opens **FEBRUARY 12**
Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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T A B
TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

FOR TEENS
 IN GRADES
 9-12

FRIDAY,
 FEBRUARY 21
 4:30 PM

Teens are invited to come share their opinions and ideas related to teen use of the Library (materials and programs) and how we can improve! Attending a TAB meeting counts as 1 hour of volunteer service.

IDEA

Thomas Teen Space
 Registration opens FEBRUARY 14

Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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ANIME & MANGA CLUB

A DEEPER DIVE

THURSDAY,
 FEBRUARY 27
 5:30 PM

FOR TWEENS IN GRADES 5-8

This month we will be talking about what sets manga and anime apart, how we prefer to read and watch it, and specific tropes we enjoy. We will also have crafts, trivia, and surveys.

THOMAS - TEEN SPACE
 REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 20

Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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Silent Reading Hour

For Tweens & Teens
 in Grades 5-12

FRIDAY,
 FEBRUARY 28
 4:30-5:30 PM

Bring a book or grab one when you get here and read with us for an hour to end Winter Reading on a high note.

Thomas Teen Space

Registration opens
 FEBRUARY 21

Register online or call
 219-926-7696
 to reserve your spot.

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Castles & CATAPULTS

FOR TWEENS & TEENS IN GRADES 5-12

TUESDAY,
 MARCH 4
 4-5 PM

With toothpicks, marshmallows, craft sticks, and spoons at our disposal we will make mighty castles and catapults to try knocking them down.

HAGEMAN BRANCH
 Registration opens February 25

Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

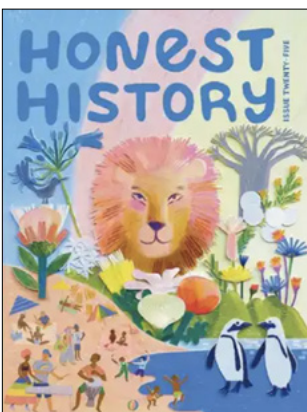
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MAGAZINES OF INTEREST



Essence (Thomas print)

The premiere lifestyle, fashion and beauty magazine for African-American women. With its motivating message, intimate girlfriend-to-girlfriend tone, compelling and engaging editorial lineup and vibrant modern design, *Essence* is the definitive voice of today's dynamic African-American woman.



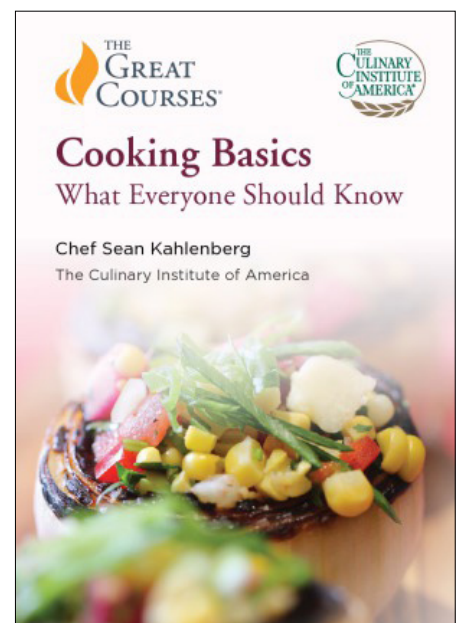
Honest History (Thomas/Hageman print & digital) (Juvenile)

An award-winning magazine for kids that brings important stories from the past to life through engaging educational topics, beautiful illustrations, and fun activities. Each issue is filled with often untold stories of people, places, and events from around the globe that inspire and encourage kids to create a positive impact on history themselves. Created to provide big brain benefits to curious minds.


GREAT COURSES

Cooking Basics: What Everyone Should Know (DVD)

Have you ever wondered how professional chefs are able to prepare multicourse meals that are not only delicious, but consistent and all prepared to the perfect time and temperature? It turns out it is easier than you might think, once you have learned the right tools and techniques. Presented in partnership with The Culinary Institute of America and filmed at the CIA's flagship facility in Hyde Park, New York, *Cooking Basics: What Everyone Should Know* provides the step-by-step instructions you need to become a confident, productive cook in your own home. Whether you're brand-new to cooking or want to up your game after years in the kitchen, these 24 easy-to-follow lessons demonstrated by Chef Sean Kahlenberg guide you through everything you'll need to create a wide variety of exciting, flavorful dishes.



FOR KIDS



TODDLER PROM

FOR TODDLERS AGES 2-4 AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Gumdrops and sweetness galore, WPL has a special celebration in store!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Choose one of two sessions

10 AM or 11 AM

A ticket is required for each person attending the event.

Free tickets are picked up at THOMAS on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 beginning at 9 AM and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Call the Thomas Children's Department at 219-926-7696 with any questions.

BAUGHER CENTER



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STORYTIMES

Toddler Time

For Toddlers Ages 2-3 and Their Caregivers
Join us for a sensory storytime. Together we will read, sing, socialize, create, and learn through play.

MONDAYS 10-10:30 or 11-11:30 AM
2/10 • 2/17 • 2/24 • 3/3 • 3/10

THOMAS CHILDREN'S DEPT. Registration opens **FEBRUARY 3**

For Babies Ages 9-24 Months and Their Caregivers
Join Miss Ronnie for an interactive program filled with songs, stories, fingerplays, and nursery rhymes.

TUESDAYS 10-10:30 or 11-11:30 AM
2/11 • 2/18 • 2/25 • 3/4 • 3/11

FRIDAYS 10-10:30 AM
2/14 • 2/21 • 2/28 • 3/7 • 3/14

Registration opens **FEBRUARY 4**

Tickle Tales

HAGEMAN BRANCH

Little Explorers

MINDFULNESS & MOVEMENT

THOMAS MEETING ROOM

For Kids Ages 4-6 and Their Caregivers

Join Miss Justine for stories about mindfulness, inclusivity, and social and emotional learning.

WEDNESDAYS 4-4:30 PM
2/12 • 2/19 • 2/26 • 3/5 • 3/12

Registration opens **FEBRUARY 5**

Register for this **five-week session** online at wpl.lib.in.us or call to reserve your spot.



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Tinker & Create:

Love and Respect Can Change the World

FOR KIDS IN GRADES 1-4

Celebrate Black History Month by learning about people that have made an impact on our society. We will discuss ideas for making the world safer and create your own custom Valentine for the world to add to our display.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10
4:30-5:30 PM
Hageman Branch

Registration opens **FEBRUARY 3**

Register online or call 219-926-9080 to reserve your spot.

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BAKING HISTORY: Soul Food

For Kids in Grades K-4

**THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 20**
4-5 PM

Join us to learn about the history and origins of Soul Food. We will also learn how a little patience and sweetness can go a long way in a recipe. Kids will mix and make their own hummingbird banana bread, a Jamaican recipe, to take home and bake.

Thomas Meeting Room

Registration opens **FEBRUARY 12**
Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.



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CRAFTERNOONS

PICK-UP CRAFT KIT

at the Hageman Branch



POT O' GOLD RAINBOW



This kit contains everything you need to make a keepsake Pot o' Gold Rainbow, except for your hand.

This craft kit is for ages 2-6.

**Registration opens
FEBRUARY 22**

Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your kit.
This craft kit may be picked up at HAGEMAN from MARCH 1-7.

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WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Prepare your child for long-term success!
Bring your 0 - 5-year-old child to register at the Thomas or Hageman Branch for our reading readiness program,

1000 Books Before Kindergarten



You can also participate online with the Beanstack app.



Beanstack

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ROMCOM Trivia Night



**Tuesday, February 25
7-8 PM**

WESTCHESTER TOWNSHIP HISTORY MUSEUM

Join us for Rom Com Trivia Night and test your knowledge of romantic comedy films and actors. From *When Harry Met Sally* and *Pretty Woman* to *Easy A* and *Silver Linings Playbook*, rom coms are a staple of the film industry. Teams of 1-4 can vie for the prize.

Seating is first come, first served. Doors open at 6:45 PM.

For more information call 219-983-9715.



MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM

Join the Flashbacks for a blast from the past as they present hits from the past 500 years. They focus on folk music from various countries and include some classics that you may have heard before.

The group is composed of Suzanne Keldsen, playing guitar, recorders, and fiddle; Jim Nelson on guitar; Lynn Edgemon playing guitar and banjo; and Marti Pizzini on autoharp, dulcimer, and guitar.


2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
**THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 13**

THE BROWN MANSION
For more information call 219-983-9715.

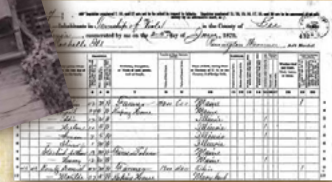
Discover Your Family History at Westchester Public Library





Genealogy and Research Workstations including

 ancestry library edition

**Now Available at
our Thomas Branch,
Hageman Branch, and
Westchester Township
History Museum**



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Hageman Branch • 100 Francis St., Porter • 219-926-9080
Westchester Township History Museum • 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton • 219-983-9715

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Westchester Township History Museum

EXHIBIT TOURS • RESEARCH

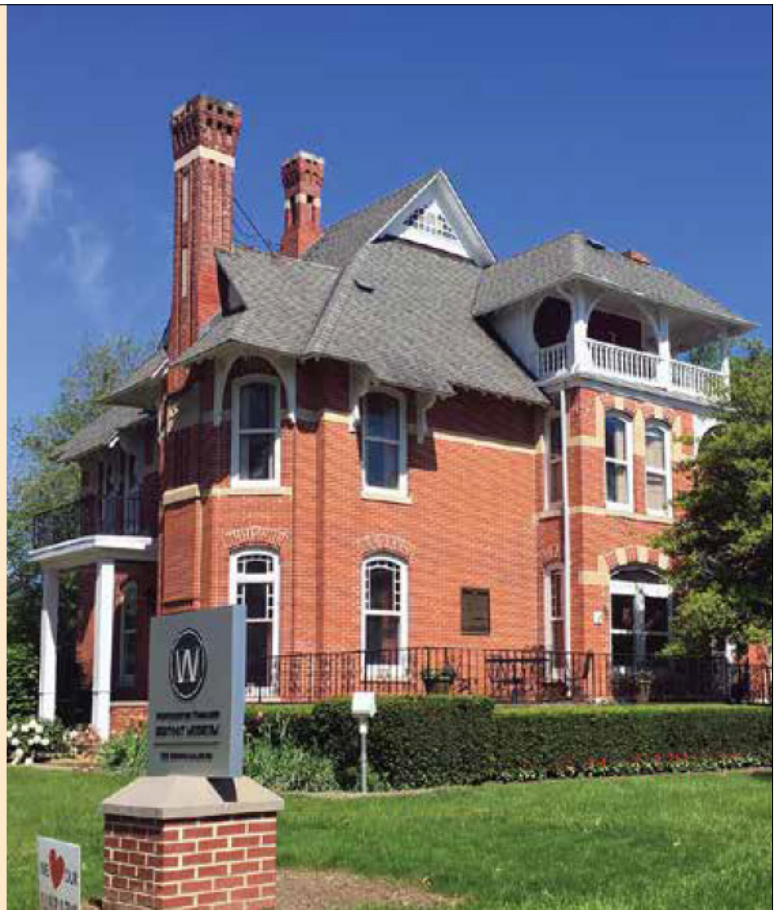
**Sunday & Monday
Closed**

**Wednesday
Open 12 - 5 pm**

**2nd & 4th Saturday of the month
Open 12 - 5 pm**

**Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
by appointment only**

Call 219-983-9715 to reserve a time.



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24/7
Access WPL's
virtual library
resources
anytime on
your electronic
devices!



wpl.lib.in.us/virtual-library/



Libby
 eBooks, Audiobooks,
 and eMagazines



Kanopy
 Award winning movies, foreign
 films, & inspiring documentaries



hoopla
 eBooks, Audiobooks, eMovies,
 eMusic, eComics and more



Novelist Plus
 Expert readalike suggestions
 for adults



The New York Times
 Access original, quality
 journalism



Novelist K-8 Plus
 Expert readalike suggestions
 up to grade 12



Brainfuse HelpNow
 Free, live online tutoring
 including homework help for all
 ages and subjects, and more



INSPIRE
 Homework and research,
 Consumer Reports, ASVAB
 and SAT test prep and more



EBSCO database
 Art, biographies, home improvement, nutrition, crafts, trade magazines,
 newspapers, medicine and more



Ancestry Library Edition
 Genealogical Research

24/7 VIRTUAL SERVICES AT WPL.LIB.IN.US

get help with homework

submit a question to us

access free lessons and resources

form online study groups

interact with a live tutor

online standardized test practice

create your own flashcards

send your paper to the writing lab

FREE ONLINE TUTORING



Go to wpl.lib.in.us/virtual-library/ and click on HelpNow to get started.

What will you watch?

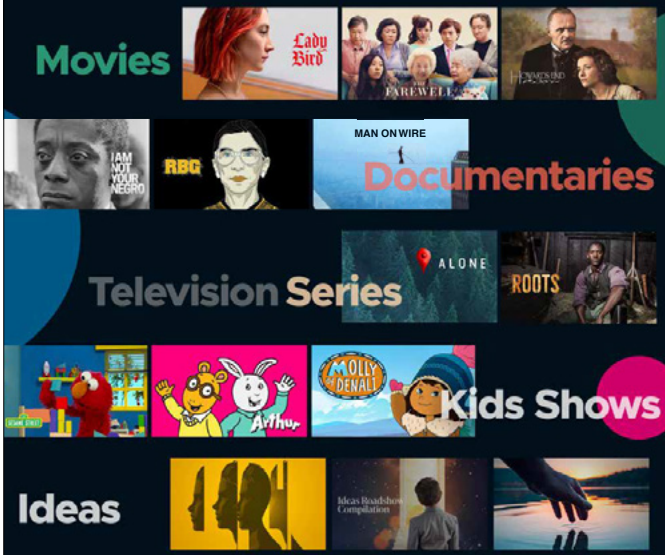
Movies

Documentaries

Television Series

Kids Shows

Ideas



kanopy
Films that matter

Start watching at wplin.kanopy.com

WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY provides **FREE** online access to

The New York Times






Understand the world.
Navigate life.
Access The New York Times here.
wpl.lib.in.us/virtual-library/

Your favorite magazines, available on your device.

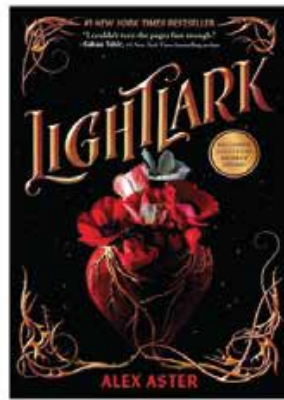
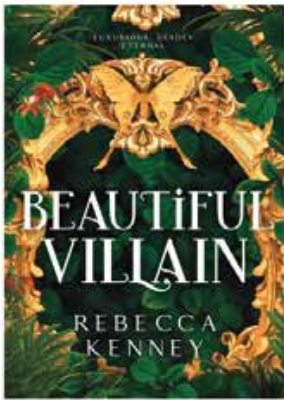
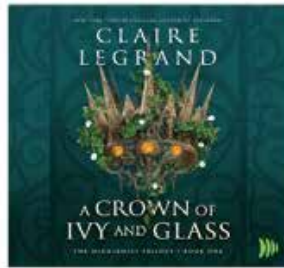
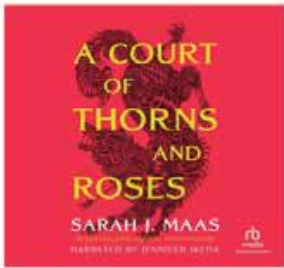
Libby.

The library reading app



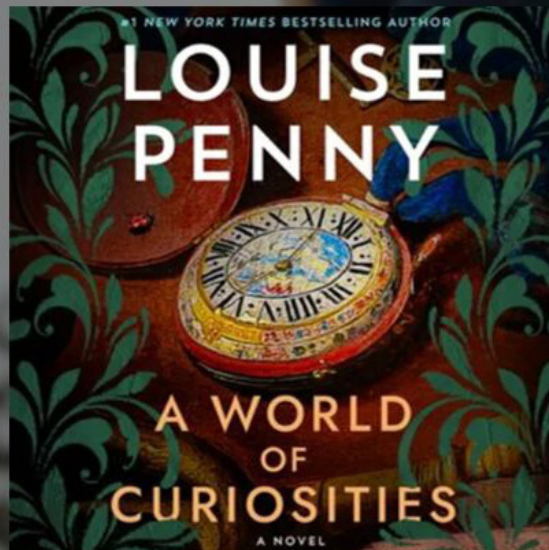
Available on the  

FEBRUARY ROMANTASY



Check out the 24/7 digital lineup at wpl.lib.in.us, including: ebooks
audiobooks • comics/graphic novels • movies • TV • magazines • music

Listen while you shovel.



Libby.

The library reading app



CURBSIDE PICKUP

Curbside Pickup hours:
Monday-Friday 1pm-6pm at both branches;
Saturday 11:30am-4:30pm at Thomas Branch;
Saturday 1:30pm-4:30pm at Hageman Branch;
Sunday 1:30pm-4:30pm at Thomas Branch

1. Use your Library card to place holds (online or by phone) for up to 5 DVDs and 10 other items per card, based on the following item limits: 5 DVDs, 10 Music CDs, 5 New Books, 2 Electronic Games, 10 General Books.

2. After you receive notice that your holds are ready, drive to your branch during Curbside Pickup hours. Pull into a specially-numbered parking space.

3. Call the Library phone number posted on the numbered parking space sign and staff will check-out and bring your holds to your parking space.

4. TWO options for pickup! Staff will place your holds on the table attached to your parking space for you to get, OR, pop your trunk and staff will place your holds inside the trunk and will then close it for you.

5. Pull out and enjoy your Library materials!

THOMAS BRANCH • 200 W. INDIANA AVE.,
CHESTERTON, IN • 926-7696

HAGEMAN BRANCH • 100 FRANCIS ST.,
PORTER, IN • 926-9080 • WPL.LIB.IN.US



**BOOKS • DVDs • AUDIOBOOKS
CDS • MAGAZINES • AND MORE!**

If you are a resident of Westchester Township and are unable to visit the Library due to extended illness, injury, disability or infirmity, WPL Home Delivery is for you!

- Library materials delivered to your door every three weeks
- Stop or restart the service at any time

To learn more about WPL's Home Delivery, please call the Thomas Library Branch at 219-926-7696.

WPL TECH HELP

Get help with apps, email, and devices including phones, tablets, and laptops.



FREE SERVICE

For Tech Help,
please call 219-926-7696
to schedule an appointment.

WPL YOUTUBE



WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

YouTube

Check out the WPL YouTube channel and find a rich collection of videos from the Westchester Township History Museum featuring local history, notable Duneland residents, and facts about the dunes and lakeshore.

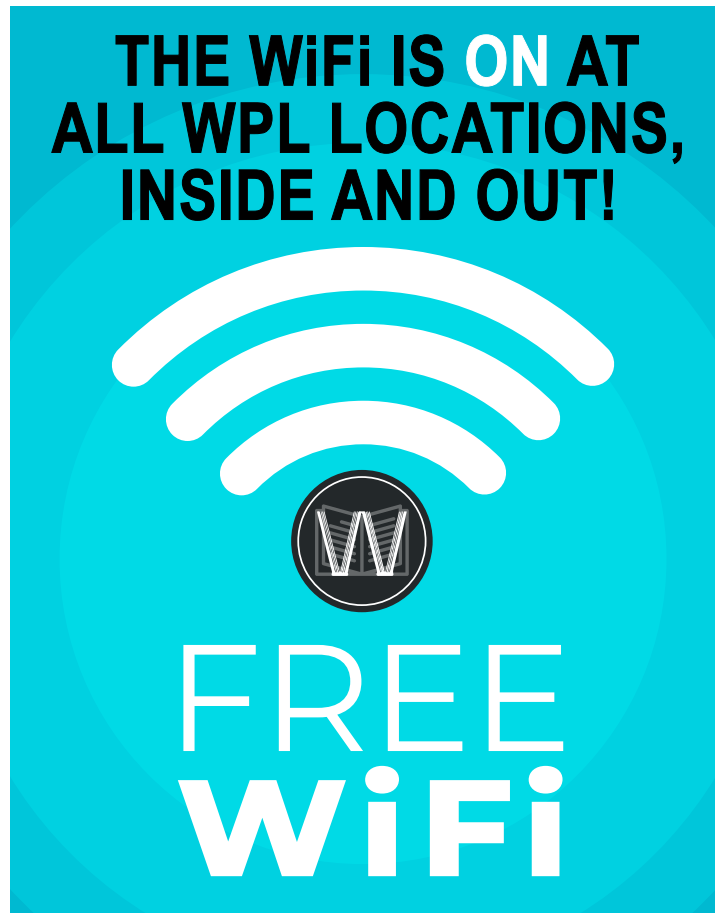
 **Duneland Ghost Towns Series**

 **Everyday is Earth Day Series**

 **Duneland's Swedish Immigrants Series**

 **Becoming Westchester Township Series**

Find the YouTube link at wpl.lib.in.us



THE WiFi IS ON AT ALL WPL LOCATIONS, INSIDE AND OUT!

FREE WiFi

NEW MOVIE & TELEVISION SERIES RELEASES

TV Series: *Birthday Bash!* // **Rating:** G

Synopsis: Come celebrate the magic of birthdays with this collection of festive tales from your favorite PBS Kids series featuring your favorite characters!

Movie Title: *Piece by Piece* // **Rating:** PG

Synopsis: This film is a unique cinematic experience that invites audiences on a vibrant journey through the life of cultural icon Pharrell Williams. Told through the lens of LEGO® animation, turn up the volume on your imagination and witness the evolution of one of music's most innovative minds.

Movie Title: *The Substance* // **Rating:** R

Synopsis: Demi Moore gives a career-best performance as Elisabeth Sparkle, a former A-lister fired from her fitness TV show by studio head Harvey. She is drawn to the "Substance." All it takes is one injection and she is reborn as the gorgeous Sue.

Sign up for the Westchester Public Library eNewsletter at wpl.lib.in.us.

Every month WPL will send an email about upcoming programs, classes, and events happening at the library. WPL will absolutely never sell or give your email address to anyone else.

You always have the right to opt-out or opt-in to receiving our emails.