



WPL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

A WINDOW INTO CHRISTMAS PAST

Have you ever wondered what Christmas was like in America long ago? In the late 1890s to around 1910, your town square would have had a magnificent tree lit by the newly-invented electric lamps. Christmas decorations would have been sold at both the General Store and the Toy Store. Shop windows would be decorated, highlighting the craftsmanship or wares of the artisan, like the baker, butcher, or printers who made Christmas cards to send near and far.

But the Toy Store's window was the most spectacular of all. It showcased an variety of mesmerizing things that elicited oohs and ahs from the crowds who gathered.



Enjoy decorations from the late 19th and early 20th century, including the pictured German Kalliope music box/tree stand (left), at Hageman.

The Hageman Library has some of these treasures on display so that you almost imagine that you are peering into one such window. The decorations, from Germany, include:

- Beautiful glass *Kugels*, which is German for ball or sphere; these ornaments are lined with silvered glass.
- A mechanical Santa pulling a jumping Jack out of his pack.
- A provincial Sebnitz ornament of a horse pulling a wagon.
- A Dresden elephant sporting a colorful howdah, a bluebird on a branch with leaves, and two silver sleighs, one pulled by reindeer, the other by swans.
- The most splendid item of all is a German Kalliope music box and Christmas tree stand. It holds a feather tree that would rotate while a metal cylinder played music when it was wound.

These are just a few of the wonders waiting to be discovered. A Window into Christmas Past will be on display December 5 through January 15, 2025.

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INTRODUCTION TO



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
10 AM - 12 PM

Do you love doing genealogy but hate paying the cost for online databases? Are you just getting started and want to know more about how to use WPL's free Ancestry access? Join Museum Curator Serena Ard as she goes through the ins and outs of using Ancestry Library Edition. Bring your questions and research projects for assistance. This program is for adults 18 and over.

Thomas Branch IT Classroom

Registration opens
NOVEMBER 30

Register online or call 219-983-9715
to reserve your spot.



THOMAS BRANCH • 200 W. INDIANA AVE., CHESTERTON, IN • WPL.LIB.IN.US





Adult Craft:
Homemade Holidays

**Thursday,
December 5
1:30 PM or
6:30 PM**



*Make your home merry and bright
with a sparkling sequin snowman
ornament and miniature gift boxes
made from upcycled Holiday cards!
For adults ages 18 and up*



***Thomas
Meeting Room***

**Registration opens
NOVEMBER 27**

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



Popular Books

DISCUSSION GROUP

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

The First Ladies by Marie Benedict

The daughter of formerly enslaved parents, Mary McLeod Bethune refuses to back down as white supremacists attempt to thwart her work. As she marches on as an activist and an educator, her reputation grows. Eleanor Roosevelt herself is awestruck and eager to make her acquaintance. Initially drawn together because of their shared belief in women's rights and the power of education, Mary and Eleanor become fast friends confiding their secrets, hopes and dreams—through tragedy and triumph.



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

This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

Next Month's Book Club Date: **JANUARY 6**

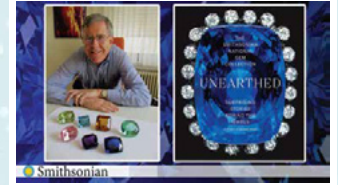
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December

ONLINE AUTHOR TALKS

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

**Virtual Event : Unearthed:
Exploring the Smithsonian
National Gem Collection
with Dr. Jeffrey Post**
Wednesday, December 4
1 PM



**On Pulse-Pounding,
Family Driven Mysteries: A
Conversation with Laura Dave**
Wednesday, December 11
1 PM



WPL BOOK CLUB KITS



Over 60 fiction and non-fiction Book Club Kit titles available to check out.

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**

BIFOCAL BOOKIES

The Music of Bees by Eileen Gavin

Following three lonely strangers in a rural Oregon town, each working through grief and life's curveballs, who are brought together by happenstance on a local honeybee farm where they find surprising friendship, healing--and maybe even a second chance--just when they least expect it



Limited copies are available at Hageman.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10
1-2 PM
HAGEMAN BRANCH

This program is for adults ages 18 and up
Call 219-926-9080 for more information.

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ADULT KIT:

Beat the Winter Blues

Give yourself the gift of well-being throughout the long winter months with this kit designed around recommended strategies for keeping the blues at bay. For adults ages 18 and up.

Registration opens **DECEMBER 2**

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

This kit can be picked up at THOMAS from December 9 -16.



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ADULT CRAFT KIT

STOVETOP POTPOURRI

Fill your home with the scents of the season when you add the ingredients in this craft kit to a crock pot or to a pan of water on the stove. Continue to add water as it evaporates and the comforting aroma will last for about a week. All ingredients will be supplied in the kit. This kit is for Adults Ages 18 and Up.

HAGEMAN BRANCH

Registration opens **DECEMBER 4**

Register online or by calling 219-926-9080.

This craft kit may be picked up from **HAGEMAN** December 11-18.



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WPL'S SUNDAY MATINEE

The Holdovers



RATED PG

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 1:30 PM

THOMAS BRANCH MEETING ROOM
200 W. INDIANA AVENUE, CHESTERTON, IN

FREE POPCORN!

ADULT CRAFT:

Cross Stitch Pendant



MONDAY,
DECEMBER 16
1:30 or 6:30 PM

Make a lovely wearable cross stitch project for yourself or a loved one! Choose from a variety of designs with this beginner-friendly project. For adults ages 18 and up.

Thomas Meeting Room

Registration opens **DECEMBER 9**

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

MAKES A GREAT GIFT!

THOMAS BRANCH • 200 W. INDIANA AVE., CHESTERTON, IN • WPL.LIB.IN.US



Adult Craft: **2025 Vision Board Collage**

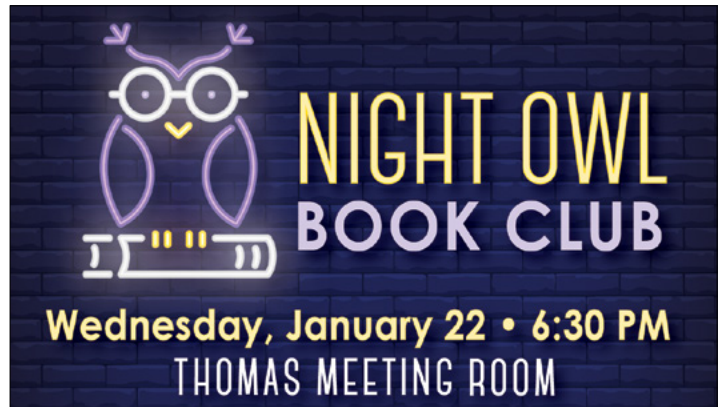
Bring your positive energy to this workshop designed to help you focus on what is important to you in 2025. Make a collage with images and affirmations designed to help you manifest your dreams, goals and desires. For adults ages 18 and up.

Monday, January 6 • 6:30 PM
Thomas Meeting Room

REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 30

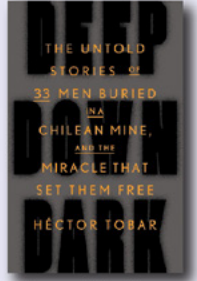
Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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Deep Down Dark
by Hector Tobar

When the San José mine collapsed outside of Copiapó, Chile, in August 2010, it trapped thirty-three miners beneath thousands of feet of rock for sixty-nine days. After the disaster, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Héctor Tobar received exclusive access to the miners and their haunting stories. This masterwork of narrative journalism is a stirring testament to the power of the human spirit and captures the profound ways in which the lives of everyone involved were forever changed.



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

This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

Registration opens December 23

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

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From a patron attending the Adult Craft: Turkey Centerpiece program:



I am going to make one of these turkeys with my grandkids! It was fun, and I think it turned out nice.

Thank you for another well-organized and well-planned craft activity!

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.



FOR TEENS & TWEENS



Chocolate Chip Cookie TASTE TEST

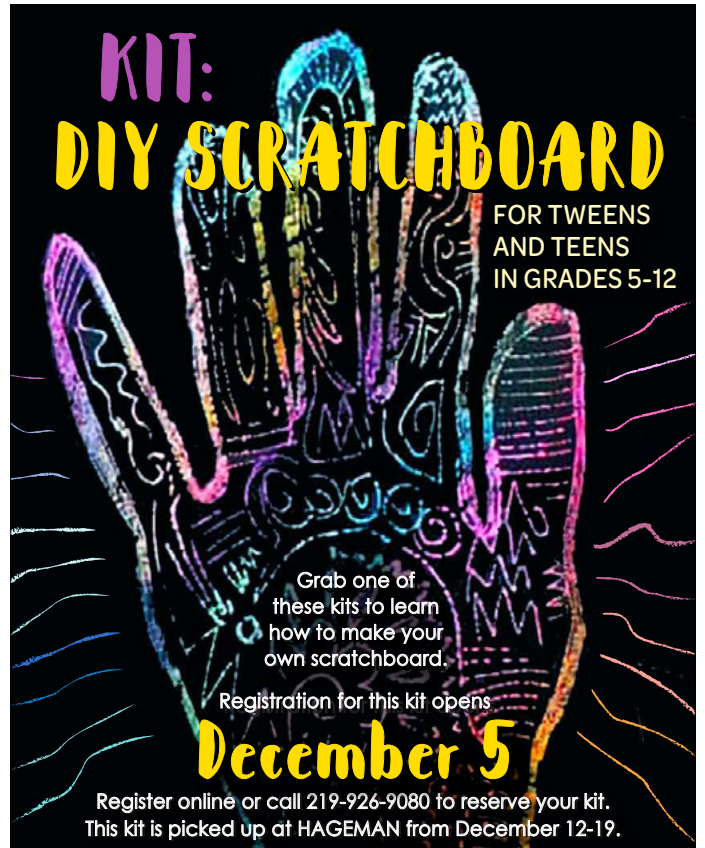
FOR TWEENS & TEENS IN GRADES 5-12
**Wednesday, December 4
6-7 PM**

Join us as we try out different chocolate chip cookies and find out which one reigns supreme!

Thomas Meeting Room
Registration opens November 26

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

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KIT: DIY SCRATCHBOARD

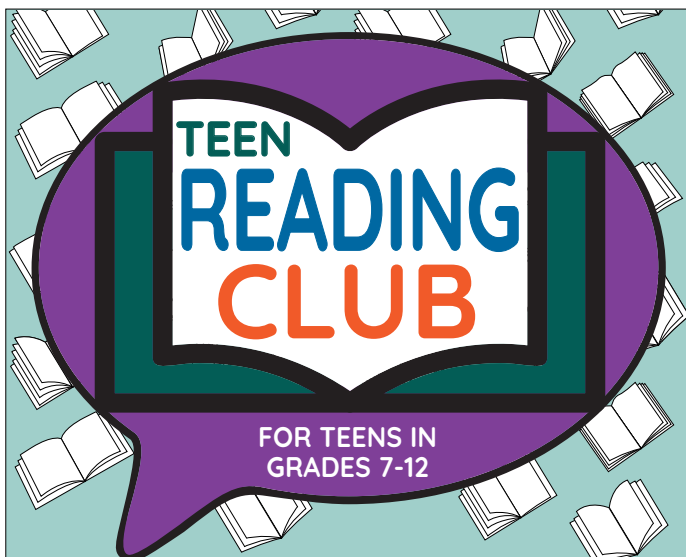
FOR TWEENS AND TEENS IN GRADES 5-12

Grab one of these kits to learn how to make your own scratchboard.

Registration for this kit opens
December 5

Register online or call 219-926-9080 to reserve your kit. This kit is picked up at HAGEMAN from December 12-19.

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TEEN READING CLUB

FOR TEENS IN GRADES 7-12


**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13
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 DECEMBER 6

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

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TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

FOR TEENS IN GRADES 9-12

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 24
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.

Thomas Teen Space
Registration opens JANUARY 17

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

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MAGAZINES OF INTEREST



Food Network Magazine (Thomas/Hageman print & digital)

Find inspiration for your holiday menus, new cookbooks from *Food Network* stars, easy weeknight recipes, “Copy That” recipes that recreate popular dishes from well-known restaurants, general cooking tips, and more!



ChopChop (Thomas/Hageman print & digital) (Juvenile)

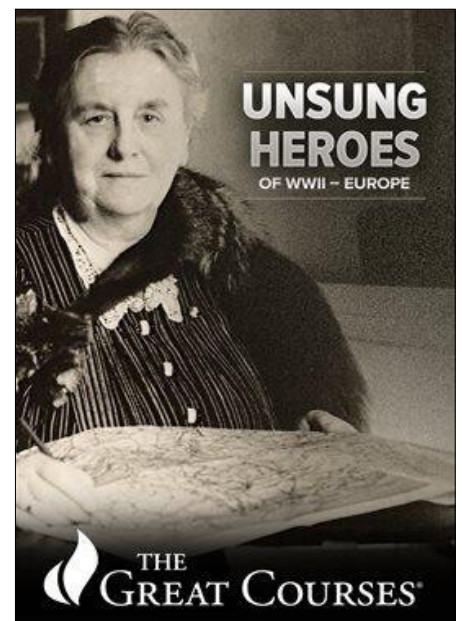
ChopChop is engaging cooking magazine for families featuring delicious, nutritious, culturally diverse, affordable, and easy-to-follow recipes. Each issue also contains essential kitchen skills, stealth STEAM learning, and loads of fun facts, games, and engaging activities.

GREAT COURSES/CREATIVE LIVE

Unsung Heroes of World War II: Europe (DVD)

Who were the unsung heroes of the European Theater of World War II? In this fascinating series, look beyond the epic battles and military strategy to meet some of the ordinary people who made an extraordinary impact on the defining conflict of the 20th century.

This is the viewers’ chance to meet men and women of courage and conscience who helped change the course of the war, but who have slipped into the cracks of history. Taught by historian Lynne Olson, author of seven acclaimed books about World War II, these twelve scintillating lectures offer a trove of fascinating, largely-untold stories across Europe and America.





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
1/6 • 1/13 • 1/20 • 1/27

THOMAS CHILDREN'S DEPT. Registration opens **DECEMBER 26**

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
1/7 • 1/14 • 1/21 • 1/28
FRIDAYS 10-10:30 AM
1/10 • 1/17 • 1/24 • 1/31

Registration opens **DECEMBER 30**

Tickle Tales

HAGEMAN BRANCH

Little Explorers POETRY LAB

For Kids Ages 4-6 and Their Caregivers

Join Miss Justine as we celebrate the joy, expressiveness, and pure delight of poetry.

WEDNESDAYS 4-4:30 PM
1/8 • 1/15 • 1/22 • 1/29

THOMAS MEETING ROOM


Registration opens **DECEMBER 30**

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



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





Books
Balls
Blocks

For Families with Children Ages 0-3

DECEMBER 11 • 10 AM
THOMAS BRANCH

Connect with early childhood specialists and local organizations such as First Things First Porter County and Help Me Grow Porter County, which will provide families and caregivers with play opportunities in line with developmental milestones, as well as information about local resources.

No registration required.



GAMERS UNITE: Coding in Roblox Studio

For Kids in Grades K - 4

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3
4 - 5 PM**

Demystify the world of **ROBLOX** Studio
and code your own video game.

**THOMAS BRANCH
IT CLASSROOM**

Registration opens **NOVEMBER 22**

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

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Tinker & Create: *Why Don't Penguins Get Cold or Wet?*

**FOR KIDS IN
GRADES 1-4**

We will be learning about
how a penguin stays
water resistant and
warm while living in
the Arctic by performing
experiments.



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9
4:30-5:30 PM**
Hageman Branch

Registration opens **DECEMBER 2**

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

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CRAFTERNOONS PICK-UP CRAFT KIT at the Hageman Branch



CRAFT STICK SNOWFLAKES




Get creative with a
multitude of embellishments
to decorate your unique
snowflakes in this kit.
This craft kit is
for ages 2-6.

Registration opens
DECEMBER 28

Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your kit.
This craft kit may be picked up at HAGEMAN from JANURAY 4-11.

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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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Cupcakes and Canvas



Friday, January 3
10 AM-Noon or 2-4 PM

Saturday, January 4
10 AM-Noon or 2-4 PM

Register for 1 of the 4 sessions offered



**THOMAS
MEETING ROOM**

Come join us for painting and delicious cupcakes over winter break with Museum Educator Susan Swarner!

**For Kids ages 6-12 • All supplies provided • Wear messy clothes
Parent or guardian must accompany child. Class size is
limited to 12 children. Registration opens DECEMBER 20 at 9 am.**

Register online or call the Museum at 219-983-9715.
Register for one 2-hour session at either 10 am-12 pm or 2-4 pm.



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,
DECEMBER 12

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

WESTCHESTER TWP. HISTORY MUSEUM • 700 W. PORTER AVE., CHESTERTON, IN • WPL.LIB.IN.US

HOLIDAY GIFTS THAT CELEBRATE DUNELAND

Do your holiday shopping with gifts that reflect a rich Duneland history from the Westchester Township History Museum store.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE:

10% OFF
NOVEMBER 23 -
DECEMBER 28



WESTCHESTER TWP.
HISTORY MUSEUM

700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton, IN
219-983-9715

Open: 12pm - 5pm Wednesdays and
the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.
You may also visit on Tuesday, Thursday,
or Friday by appointment.

Westchester Township History Museum

EXHIBIT TOURS • RESEARCH

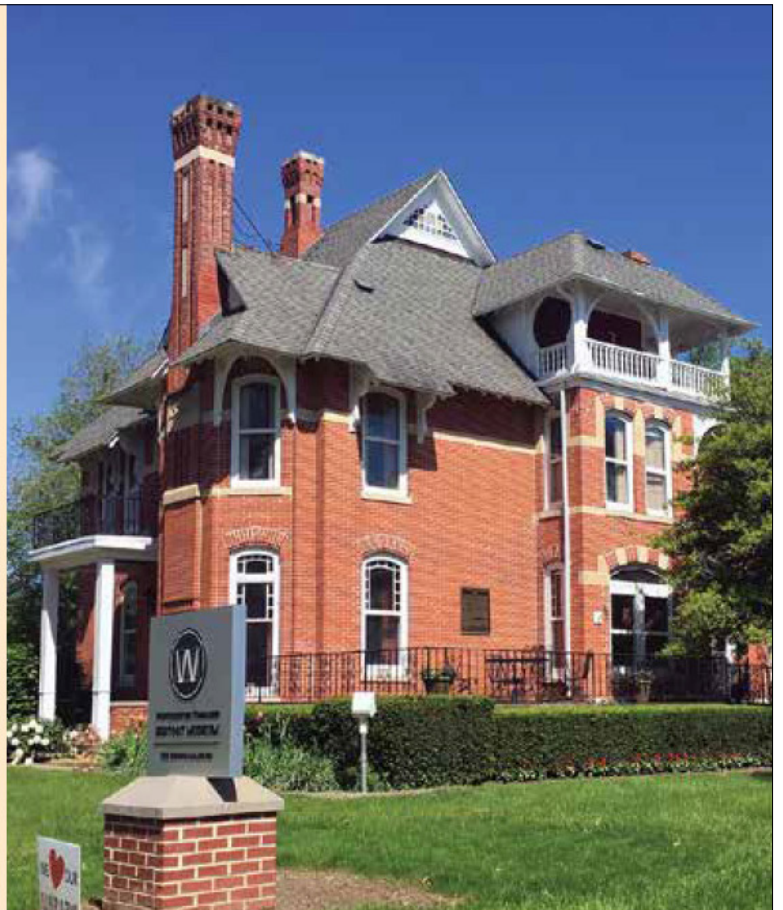
Sunday & Monday
Closed

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  



Unlimited streaming for 7 days with a single borrow.



Kid-Friendly Favorites

hoopla BingePass



Fandor
artfully entertaining.

hoopla BingePass



impactful
Creative Coping Toolkit

Mental Health Literacy for All Ages

Scan now to borrow!

hoopla BingePass



Hallmark+ New holiday movies and series streaming all season long!

hoopla BingePass



IN THE KITCHEN WITH Craftsy

hoopla BingePass

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



Comfort & Joy

Libby.

The Williams-Sonoma Test Kitchen
Favorite Cookies

FAVORITE COOKIES

WILLIAMS-SONOMA

Borrow

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!

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**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 IN OUR PARKING LOTS.

FREE WiFi

NEW MOVIE & TELEVISION SERIES RELEASES

TV Series: *The Wild Robot* // **Rating:** PG

Synopsis: The epic adventure follows the journey of a robot, 'Roz', that is shipwrecked on an uninhabited island and must learn to adapt to the harsh surroundings, gradually building relationships with the animals on the island and becoming the adoptive parent of an orphaned gosling.

Movie Title: *The Forge* // **Rating:** PG

Synopsis: After graduating from high school without any plans for the future, Isaiah receives a push to start making better life decisions. At odds with his single mother Cynthia, Isaiah is given an ultimatum to step up or move out. Feeling the pull from his friends and the push from his mom, Isaiah is hired by Moore Fitness, but has no idea how the owner will personally impact his life.

Movie Title: *Alien: Romulus* // **Rating:** R

Synopsis: While scavenging the deep ends of a derelict space station, a group of young space colonizers come face to face with the most terrifying life form in the universe.

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.



Holiday Hours

The WPL system will
be CLOSED on:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Regular hours resume December 26

The WPL system will
be CLOSED on:

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

Regular hours resume January 2