



WPL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

SHELF IMPROVEMENT IN 2026

The New Year is a natural time for reflection and setting fresh goals. As you picture your ideal 2026 self, consider adopting one habit that can boost your intelligence, support your health, and even strengthen your relationships: reading.

Warren Buffett famously reads 500 pages a day. While hours of reading may not fit into your daily routine, small and consistent reading habits can make a big impact. Here are a few ways to build your reading muscles and improve your mental fitness in the year ahead:

Make a Reading Resolution

Consider setting a goal to read a certain number of books or pages per year, or an amount of time per day. At WPL, our Winter Reading Program in February—and our Summer Reading Program mid-year—offer fun incentives to keep you motivated.

Join a Book Club

Book clubs are a great way to meet people, discover books you might not pick up on your own, and enjoy meaningful conversations. WPL hosts three monthly book clubs:

- Bifocal Bookies at our Hageman Branch
- Popular Books at our Thomas Branch
- Night Owl Book Club, also at our Thomas Branch

New members are always welcome!

Create a Bedroom Reading Space

A helpful personal strategy: keep your phone, TV, and computer out of the bedroom, and place a book on your nightstand instead. This sounds easy, but many of us struggle to resist the siren song of the blue screen! Nevertheless, sticking with this one change can make unwinding with a book far more likely.

Happy New Year from all of us at WPL!

Let us know how we can help you reach your reading goals, and may 2026 be the year of shelf improvement.



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Martin Luther King Jr. Day Kits



*"Life's most persistent and urgent question is,
'What are you doing for others?'"*
– *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

We honor the memory and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by reflecting upon his dedicated pursuit of civil rights and justice.

To celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr., we're offering MLK Day Kits. Stop in and pick one up at either branch!

*Available beginning January 19,
while supplies last.*



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





Stargazing 101

FOR ALL AGES

***Saturday, January 24
4-6 PM***

Join us to learn more about astronomy at the library after dark. Participants will learn about the history of astronomy, how to recognize popular constellations, play space bingo, and try using a telescope with the help of the Calumet Astronomical Society.

BAUGHER CENTER

Registration opens January 17

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



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



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



Tech Sale

Shop an assortment of retired technology, including PCs, laptops, children's computers, and more!

All items are in working condition and sold as-is.

A technology expert will be on hand to answer questions.

Items are priced to sell, between \$1-\$100.

Cash or check only, no refunds or returns.

For more information, contact Dan at 219-926-7696.

JANUARY 17 • 9 AM - NOON*

***Quantities are limited and the sale could end before noon.**

THOMAS BRANCH



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





Bring your positive energy to this workshop to help you focus on what is important to you in 2026. Make a collage with images and affirmations designed to help you manifest your dreams, goals and desires. For adults ages 18 and up.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8
1:30 or 6:30 PM

Thomas Branch

REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 2

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



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



Popular Books

DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, January 5 • 2-3:30 PM

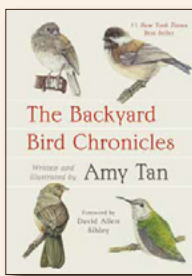
THOMAS BRANCH

The Backyard Bird Chronicles by Amy Tan

In this "unexpected and spectacular" collection of drawings and essays, the award-winning author of *The Joy Luck Club* finds the opportunity to savor quiet moments during a volatile time, connect to nature in a meaningful way, and imagine the intricate lives of the birds she admires.

This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

Next Month's Book Club Date: **FEBRUARY 2**



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

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JANUARY

ONLINE AUTHOR TALKS

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



Nature, Art, and
Service as Medicine
with Journalist Julia Hotz
Tuesday, January 20
1 PM

Secrets and
Second Chances
with Liz Moore
Wednesday, January 28
6 PM



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Popular Books

DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, February 2 • 2-3:30 PM

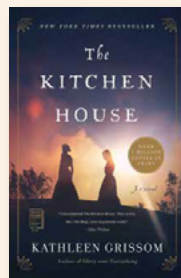
THOMAS BRANCH

The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom

Orphaned while onboard a ship from Ireland, 7-year-old Lavinia arrives at the tobacco plantation where she is to live and work with the slaves of the kitchen. In the decades before the Civil War, dark secrets threaten to expose the best and worst in everyone tied to the estate at this thriving plantation in Virginia.

This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

Next Month's Book Club Date: **MARCH 2**



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

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NIGHT OWL BOOK CLUB

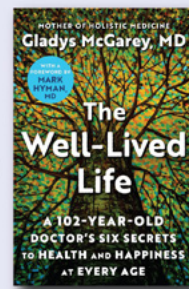
Wednesday, January 21 • 6:30 PM
THOMAS BRANCH

The Well-Lived Life: A 102-Year-Old Doctor's Six Secrets to Health and Happiness at Every Age by Gladys McGarey, M.D.

Dr. Gladys McGarey, cofounder of the American Holistic Medical Association, began her medical practice at a time when women couldn't even have their own bank accounts. Over the past sixty years, she has pioneered a new way of thinking about disease and health that has transformed the way we imagine health care and self-care around the world. This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

Registration opens **DECEMBER 10**

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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fiber arts circle

MONDAYS
JANUARY 5
FEBRUARY 23
MARCH 9
1:30 PM

Join our Fiber Arts Circle and connect with fellow makers who love all things yarn and thread! Bring your knitting, crochet, embroidery, weaving, or any other fiber arts project to work on in a welcoming, creative space. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned artist, you'll have the chance to share ideas, ask questions, learn new techniques, and find inspiration. All skill levels are welcome.

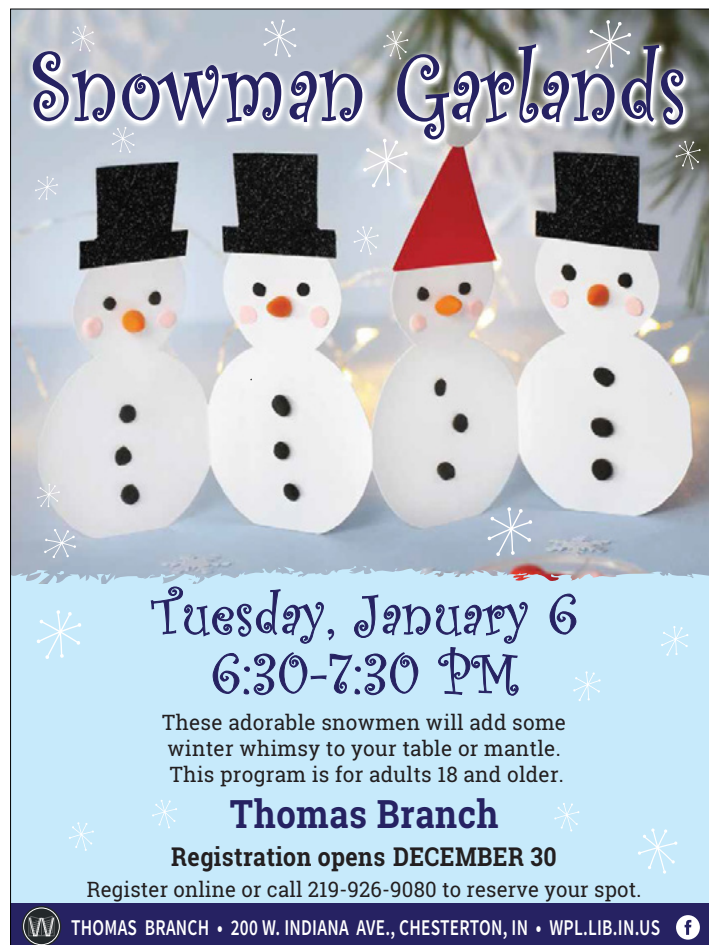
For adults ages 18 and up.

thomas branch

Registration is OPEN

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

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Snowman Garlands

Tuesday, January 6
6:30-7:30 PM

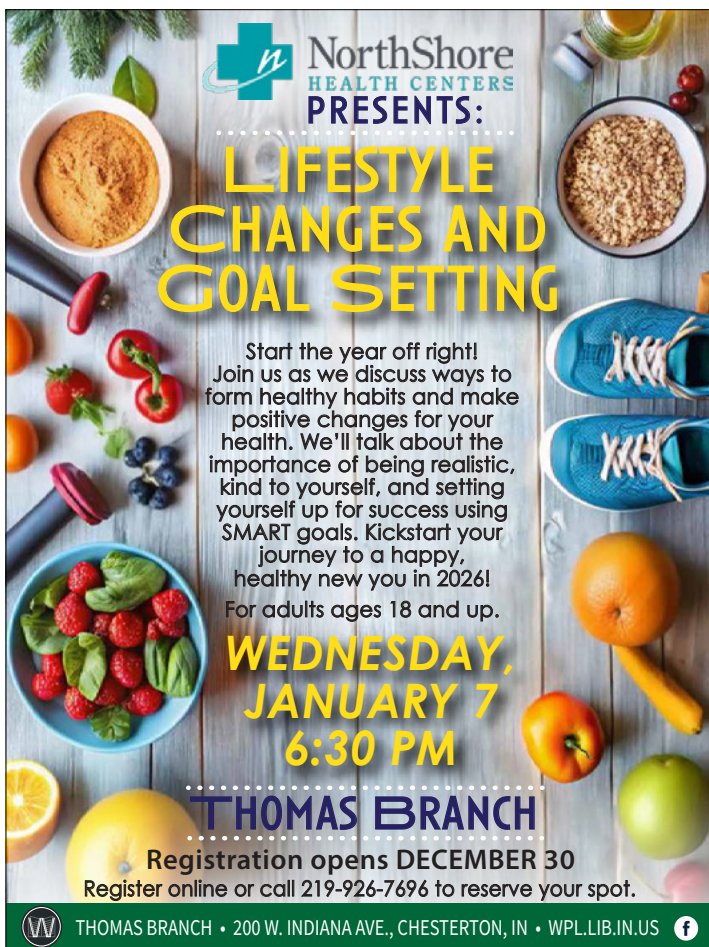
These adorable snowmen will add some winter whimsy to your table or mantle. This program is for adults 18 and older.

Thomas Branch

Registration opens **DECEMBER 30**

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

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NorthShore HEALTH CENTERS PRESENTS:

LIFESTYLE CHANGES AND GOAL SETTING

Start the year off right! Join us as we discuss ways to form healthy habits and make positive changes for your health. We'll talk about the importance of being realistic, kind to yourself, and setting yourself up for success using SMART goals. Kickstart your journey to a happy, healthy new you in 2026!

For adults ages 18 and up.

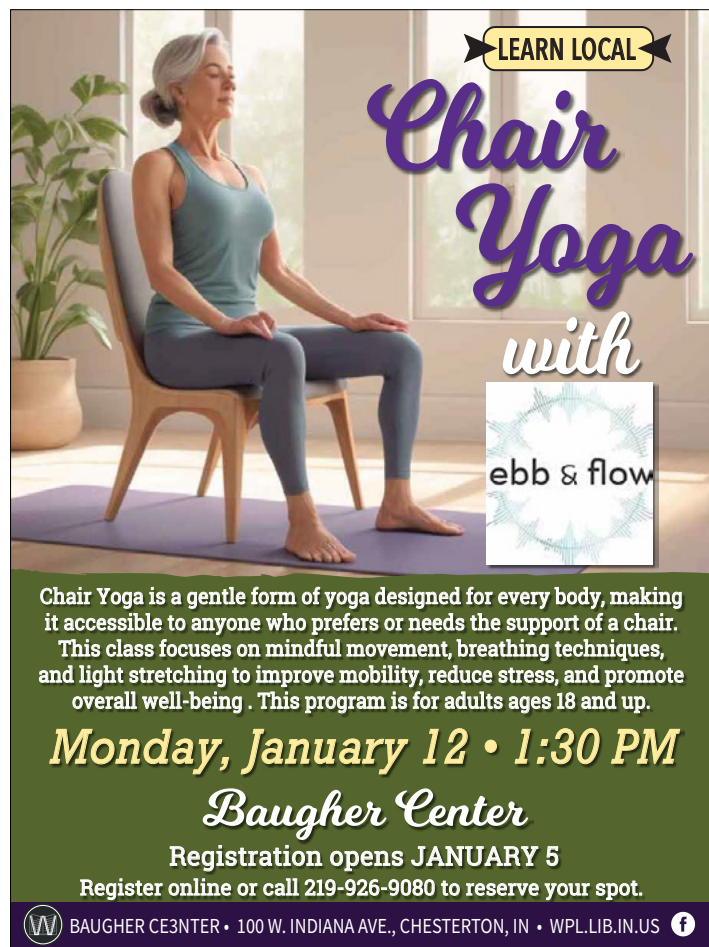
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7
6:30 PM

THOMAS BRANCH

Registration opens **DECEMBER 30**

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

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LEARN LOCAL

Chair Yoga

with *ebb & flow*

Chair Yoga is a gentle form of yoga designed for every body, making it accessible to anyone who prefers or needs the support of a chair. This class focuses on mindful movement, breathing techniques, and light stretching to improve mobility, reduce stress, and promote overall well-being. This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

Monday, January 12 • 1:30 PM

Baughner Center

Registration opens **JANUARY 5**

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

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WPL'S SUNDAY MATINEE



RATED
PG-13

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 AT 1:30 PM

BAUGHER CENTER

100 W. INDIANA AVENUE, CHESTERTON, IN

FREE
POPCORN!

SPARKLING SUNCATCHERS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
1-2 PM

Bring a friend or meet someone new as you make
beautiful, sparkling suncatchers.

For adults ages 18 and up.

HAGEMAN BRANCH

Registration opens JANUARY 27

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

Overheard at the Thomas Branch:
During a recent snowstorm,
a patron told us that this was
the only place worth coming
to in this kind of weather.

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.

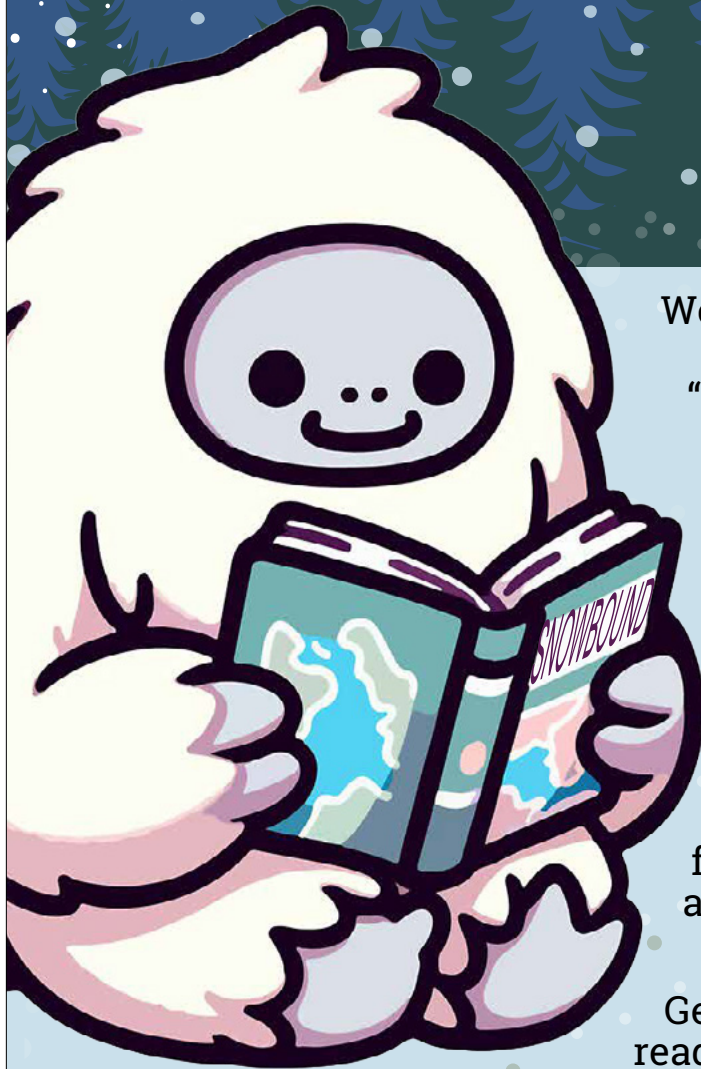


COMING IN FEBRUARY

GET YETI TO READ

WINTER READING 2026 CHALLENGE

FEBRUARY 1-28



Westchester Public Library challenges Adults and Young Adults to "Get Yeti to Read" during the month of February. Register in person at either branch to use paper tickets, OR Participate digitally through the Beanstack app or through wplin.beanstack.com.



Adults (Ages 18 and Up):

Submit an entry ticket for each book/magazine you read, and/or each activity you complete.

Young Adults (Grades 5-12):

Get an entry for every 15 minutes you read, and/or each activity you complete.

**WEEKLY PRIZES FOR
EACH AGE GROUP!**

Stop by the Library, or use Libby or Hoopla online, to check out books, audiobooks, and magazines.

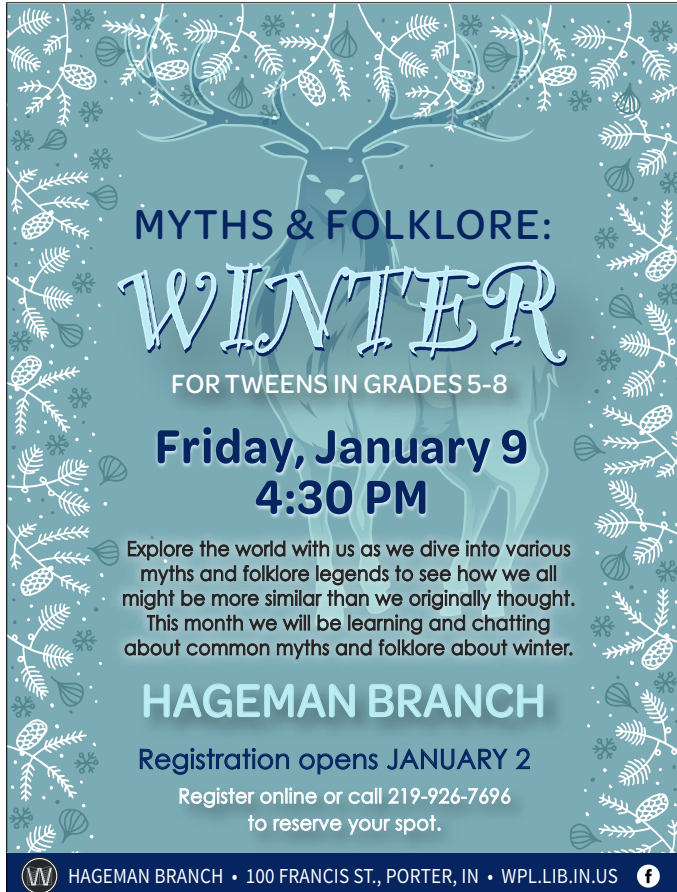


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FOR TEENS & TWEENS





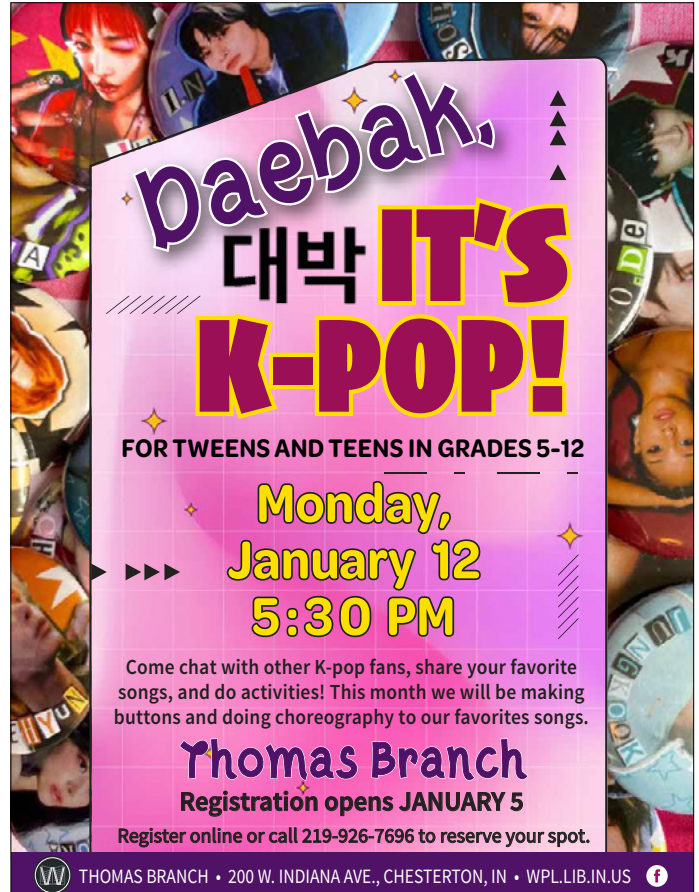
MYTHS & FOLKLORE:
WINTER
FOR TWEENS IN GRADES 5-8

Friday, January 9
4:30 PM

Explore the world with us as we dive into various myths and folklore legends to see how we all might be more similar than we originally thought. This month we will be learning and chatting about common myths and folklore about winter.

HAGEMAN BRANCH
Registration opens **JANUARY 2**
Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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paebak, 대박 IT'S K-POP!
FOR TWEENS AND TEENS IN GRADES 5-12

Monday, January 12
5:30 PM

Come chat with other K-pop fans, share your favorite songs, and do activities! This month we will be making buttons and doing choreography to our favorites songs.

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

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RUBBER DUCK CELEBRATION
FOR TWEENS IN GRADES 5-8

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 • 5:30 PM

It's time for our favorite holiday: National Rubber Duck Day. Celebrate with us by doing a scavenger hunt, playing games, and doing rubber duck themed crafts.

TEEN SPACE
Registration opens **JANUARY 6**
Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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Lo-Fi HANGOUT

FOR TEENS IN GRADES 7-12

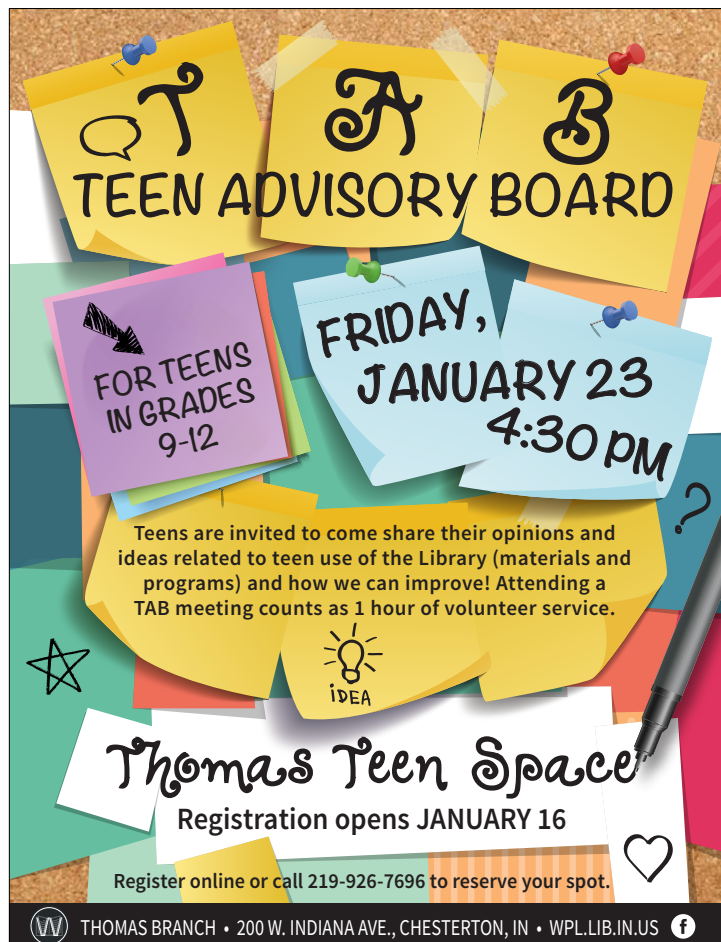
**MONDAY,
JANUARY 19
4:30 - 5:30 PM**

De-stress with us!
Stop by to listen to chill music, chat with friends, and do relaxing crafts and games.

THOMAS-TEEN SPACE

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

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TEEN ADVISORY BOARD

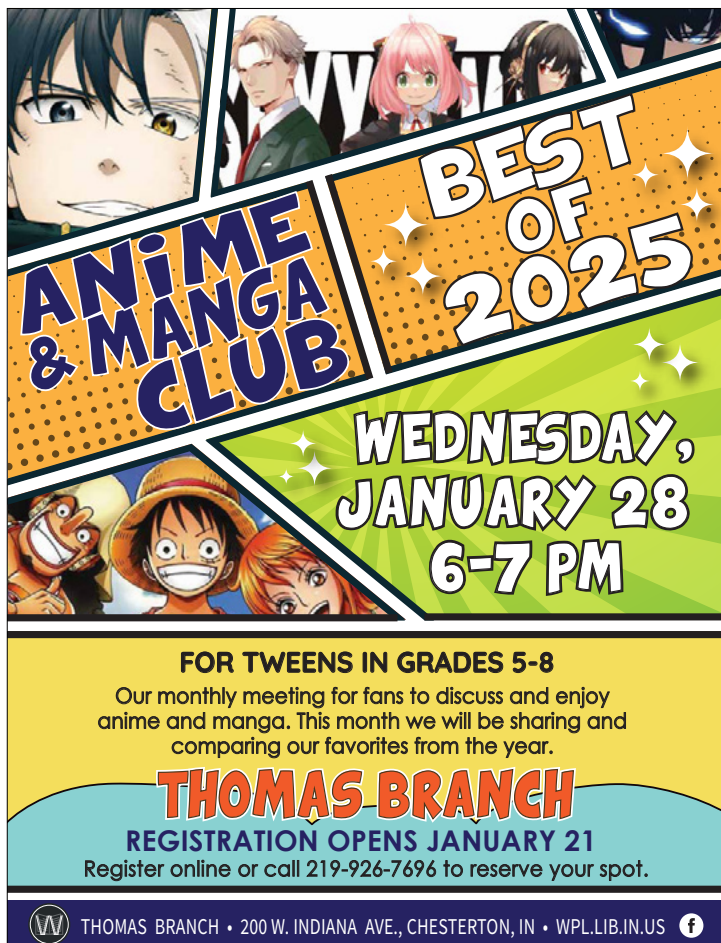
**FRIDAY,
JANUARY 23
4:30 PM**

FOR TEENS IN GRADES 9-12

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 16**
Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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ANIME & MANGA CLUB

BEST OF 2025

**WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 28
6-7 PM**

FOR TWEENS IN GRADES 5-8
Our monthly meeting for fans to discuss and enjoy anime and manga. This month we will be sharing and comparing our favorites from the year.

THOMAS BRANCH
REGISTRATION OPENS **JANUARY 21**
Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.

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Get Yeti to Sew

For Teens in Grades 7-12

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

Come create a felt yeti and learn some basic hand sewing techniques.

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

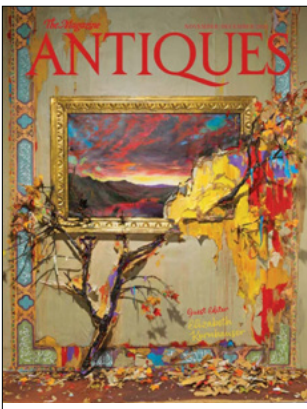
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MAGAZINES OF INTEREST



***Inc.* (Thomas print)**

Inc. is the only major business magazine edited exclusively to guide CEOs and owners of small-to-midsize companies to success. It provides fresh, insightful analyses to give individuals in the business world the tools they need to excel. Each issue, written by managerial gurus and experts, utilizes real life examples of strategies, case studies, successes, and failures that are chosen to illuminate new ways in which its readers can learn and benefit. Big and small organizations alike turn to *Inc.* to make sense of the ever-changing business world.



***The Magazine Antiques* (Thomas print & digital)**

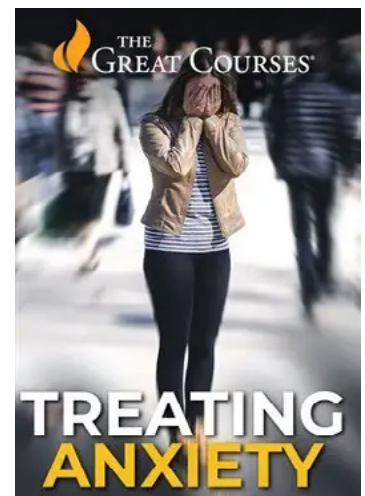
The Magazine Antiques focuses on the fascinating worlds of architecture, interior design, and fine and decorative arts from the dawn of civilization to the modern era. You'll learn about private collections and museums around the world that highlight the latest trends in collecting and decorating with antiques.

GREAT COURSES

***Treating Anxiety* (DVD & Hoopla digital)**

Have you ever considered that you just might owe your life to anxiety? Learn how evolution favored those with a healthy amount of anxiety, including your personal ancestors. Explore the boundary between everyday anxiety and the clinically significant anxiety that is experienced by about one-third of the population in their lifetime.

In the 12 fascinating and action-oriented lectures of *Treating Anxiety*, Dr. Ellen Hendriksen describes the causes and symptoms of numerous anxiety disorders—from generalized anxiety disorder to social anxiety to panic. In her calming manner, and always backed by rigorous scientific studies, she will give you numerous tools and exercises you can employ immediately to help treat your own anxiety. After all, few of us are in danger of being eaten by a bear these days and, as Dr. Hendriksen points out, we don't want to spend our lives hiding in the metaphorical cave.





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

1/5 • 1/12 • 1/19 • 1/26

THOMAS CHILDREN'S DEPT. Registration opens **DECEMBER 23**

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

1/6 • 1/13 • 1/20 • 1/27

FRIDAYS 10-10:30 AM

1/9 • 1/16 • 1/23 • 1/30

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

1/7 • 1/14 • 1/21 • 1/28

THOMAS MEETING ROOM

Registration opens **DECEMBER 29**

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



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WARM & COZY STORY TIME

For Kids
Ages 2-5
and Their
Caregivers



Join us for a sensory storytime with gentle stories, songs and crafts.

Thursday, January 8
4-5 PM

BAUGHER CENTER

Registration opens on **DECEMBER 30**

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



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MUSIC & ARTS SOCIAL CLUB:

THE 60S

For Kids in Grades K-4

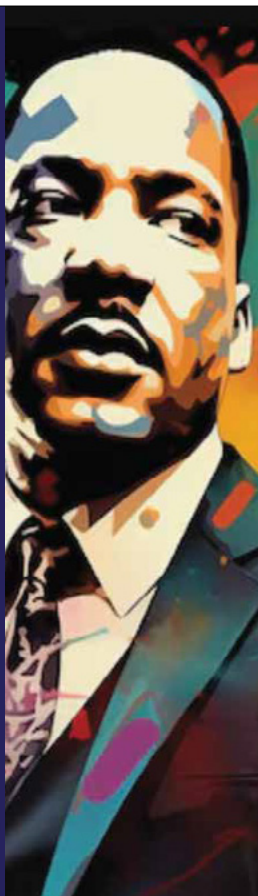
**Thursday,
January 15
4-5 PM**

Transcend time and explore art, music, and happenings during the 1960s. The kids will make an art project while listening to The Beatles and watching a screening of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

THOMAS BRANCH

Registration opens **JANUARY 8**

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



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BRICK ZONE

For Kids in Grades K-4

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 22
4-5 PM**

Calling all LEGO fans! Join the fun at Brick Zone as we create LEGO masterpieces. We supply the LEGOs – you bring the creativity. Afterward, your creation will be displayed at the Library for all to see.

HAGEMAN BRANCH

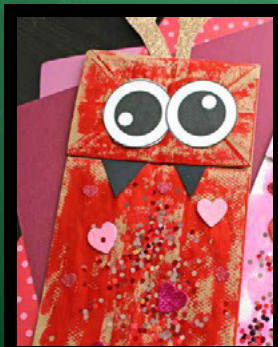
Registration opens **JANUARY 15**
Register online or call 219-926-9080 to reserve your spot.

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CRAFTERNOONS PICK-UP CRAFT KIT

at the Hageman Branch

LOVE MONSTER PUPPET




Use the materials provided and add your imagination to create your very own Love Monster Puppet.

This craft kit is for ages 2-6.

**Registration opens
JANUARY 26**

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

This craft kit may be picked up at HAGEMAN from FEBRUARY 2-9.

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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,

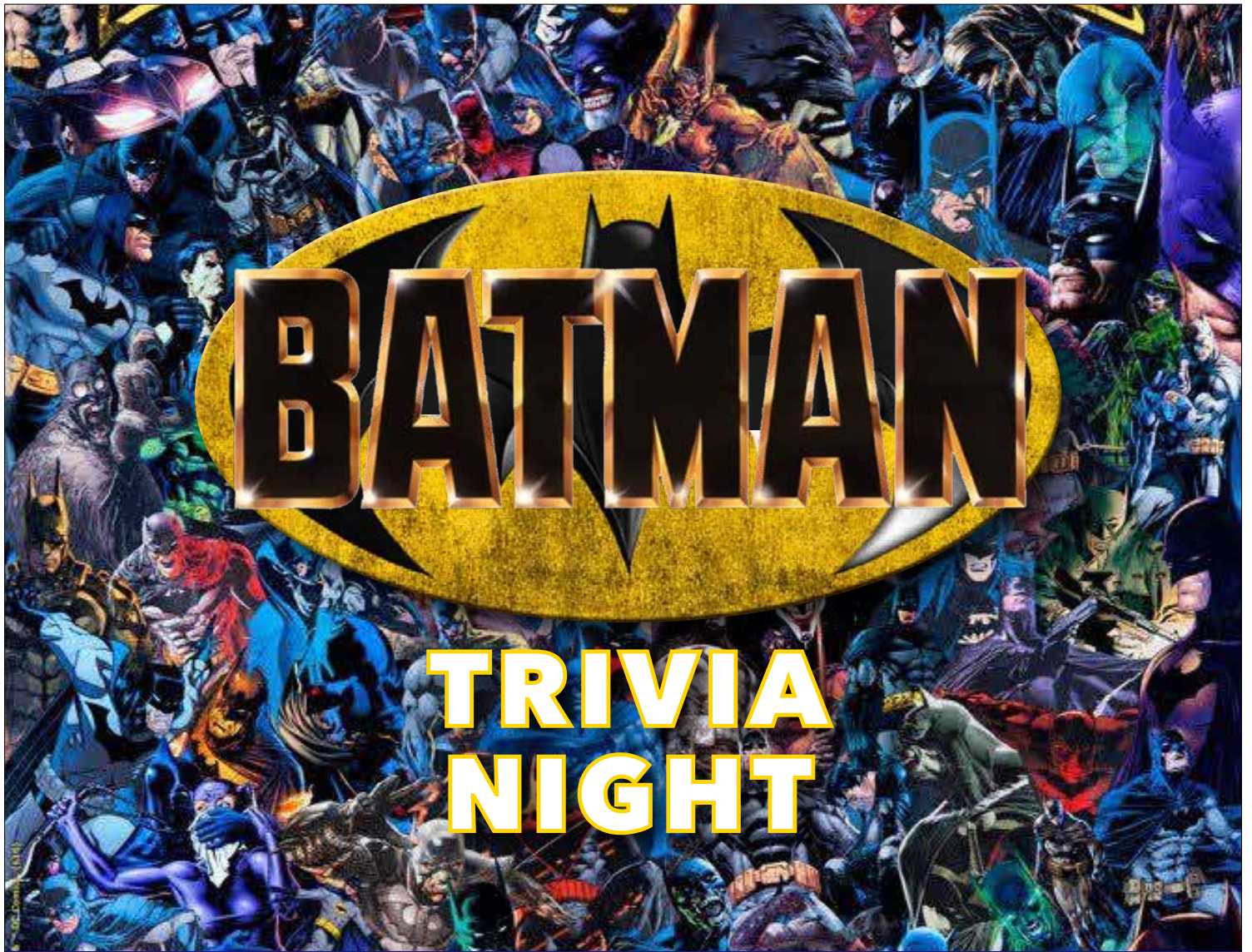
1000 Books Before Kindergarten

You can also participate online with the Beanstack app.



 **Beanstack**

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**TUESDAY, JANUARY 27
7-8 PM**

Holy Trivia Night, Batman! Come test your knowledge of the Caped Crusader at this month's Batman Trivia Night.

The City of Gotham is counting on you.

For adults ages 18 and up. Teams of 1-4 can vie for the prize.

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

THOMAS BRANCH

For more information call 219-983-9715.



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MUSEUM

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.

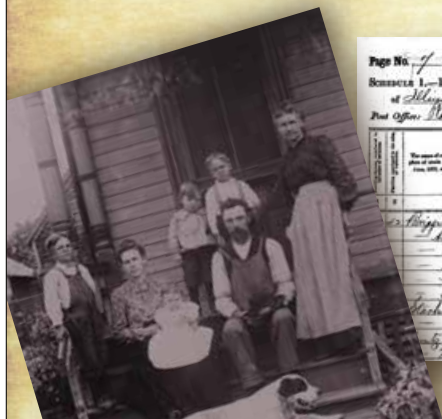


WESTCHESTER TWP. HISTORY MUSEUM • 700 W. PORTER AVE., CHESTERTON, IN • 219-983-9715 • WPL.LIB.IN.US 



ancestry.com®
library edition

**Genealogy and research workstations are available
at our Thomas Branch, Hageman Branch,
and Westchester Township History Museum.**



Page No. 7

RECORDS 1. - Inhabitants in Township of *West* in the County of *Lee*
of *Illinois*, enumerated by me on the 2nd day of *June*, 1870.
For *John Marshall Hill*

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade	Value of Real Estate	Value of Personal Estate	Price of Real Estate owned by him or her on 1 st day of Jan'y, 1870	Price of Personal Estate owned by him or her on 1 st day of Jan'y, 1870	Value of Real Estate owned by him or her on 1 st day of Jan'y, 1870	Value of Personal Estate owned by him or her on 1 st day of Jan'y, 1870
1	John Marshall Hill	30	M	W	Farmer	1000	500	1000	500	1000	500
2	John Marshall Hill	25	M	W	Farmer	1000	500	1000	500	1000	500
3	John Marshall Hill	20	M	W	Farmer	1000	500	1000	500	1000	500
4	John Marshall Hill	15	M	W	Farmer	1000	500	1000	500	1000	500
5	John Marshall Hill	10	M	W	Farmer	1000	500	1000	500	1000	500
6	John Marshall Hill	5	M	W	Farmer	1000	500	1000	500	1000	500
7	John Marshall Hill	0	M	W	Farmer	1000	500	1000	500	1000	500
8	John Marshall Hill	0	F	W	Farmer	1000	500	1000	500	1000	500
9	John Marshall Hill	0	F	W	Farmer	1000	500	1000	500	1000	500
10	John Marshall Hill	0	F	W	Farmer	1000	500	1000	500	1000	500



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



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



Libby

eBooks, Audiobooks,
and eMagazines



hoopla

eBooks, Audiobooks, eMovies,
eMusic, eComics and more



The New York Times

All Access—News, Games,
Cooking, Wirecutter,
The Athletic



Brainfuse HelpNow

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



EBSCO database

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



Kanopy

Award winning movies, foreign
films, & inspiring documentaries



Novelist Plus

Expert readalike suggestions
for adults



Novelist K-8 Plus

Expert readalike suggestions
up to grade 12



INSPIRE

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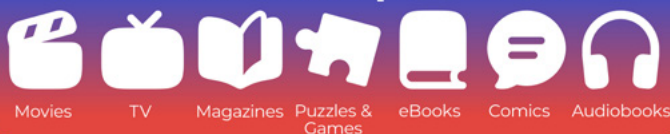
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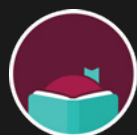


Kids' Content



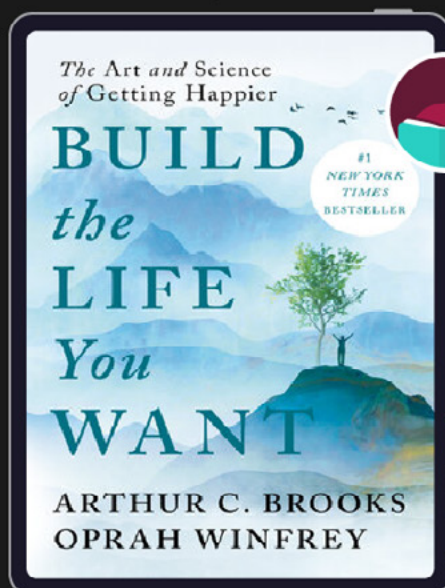
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CURBSIDE PICKUP

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. Pickup! Roll open your window or pop your trunk and staff will bring your bagged hold items out to your parking space for you. They will conveniently close your trunk if opened.

5. Pull out and enjoy your Library materials!

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- 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.

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FREE SERVICE

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



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

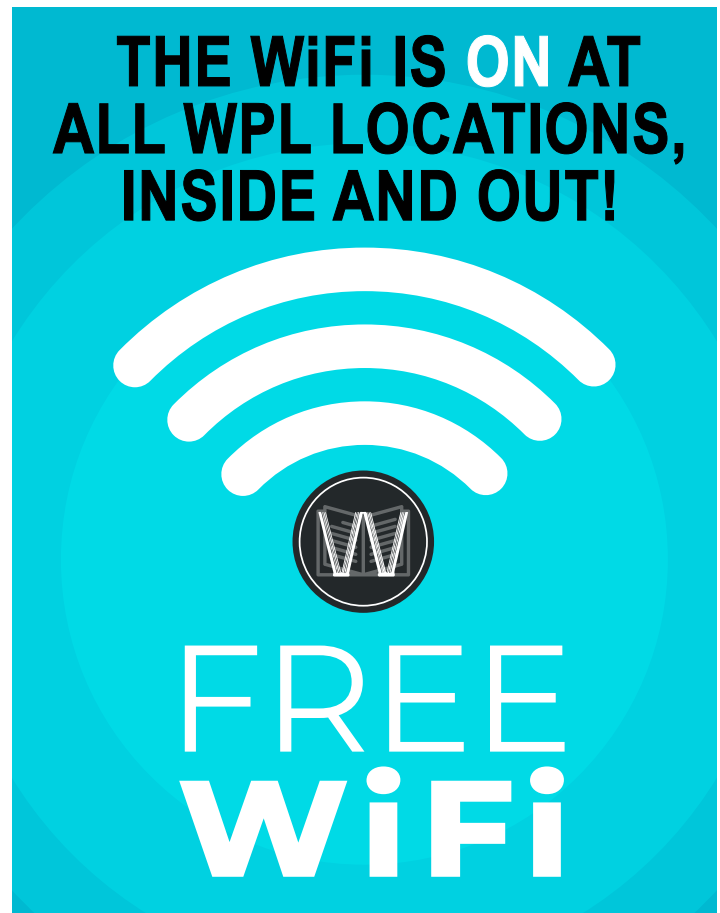


Duneland's Swedish Immigrants Series



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: *Karma is Three Cats* // **Rating:** G

Synopsis: Children and adults alike will love the delightful escapades of Taylor Swift's furry friends. The famous felines will bring a smile to your face and warmth to your heart.

Movie Title: *The Lord of the Rings: Original Animated Classic* // **Rating:** PG-13

Synopsis: Controversial animator Ralph Bakshi's literal adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic fantasy trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings*, is brought to the screen. An evil sorcerer from a previous era created a magical ring which enables its users to call upon its tremendous powers to rule the world, but it inevitably warps them to evil. It was believed lost, but during a resurgence of magical evil in the world, Bilbo, a simple, plain-spoken hobbit, recovers it from its hiding place. The forces of good give his nephew Frodo the choice to bear the awful burden of the ring to a place where it may be destroyed.

Movie Title: *Anemone* // **Rating:** R

Synopsis: The captivating tale of two brothers separated by time and a long-buried family mystery. Set in the quiet beauty of Ireland's woodlands, one brother sets out to find the other, hoping to mend what was broken.

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