



WPL NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026

SOCIAL CLUBBING



If you haven't yet joined a book club, maybe you should—a British Medical Journal study recently determined that participating in a book club is, in effect, a social “brain workout” that can actually reduce the risk of premature death. Plus, belonging to a book club can increase motivation to read by up to 75%.

Westchester Public Library offers three staff-led book discussion groups, all open to everyone ages 18 and up: [Popular Books](#), each first Monday at 2:00 PM at the Thomas Branch; [Bifocal Bookies](#), 1:00 PM every second Tuesday at Hageman; and our newest, the [Night Owl Book Club](#), which meets at 6:30 PM every third Wednesday at Thomas. If you're interested, just call the Library at 219-926-7696 to learn about next month's book title, and make arrangements to borrow a copy.

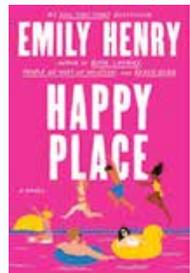
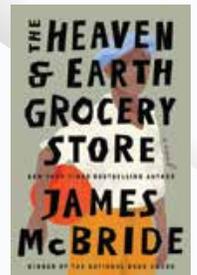
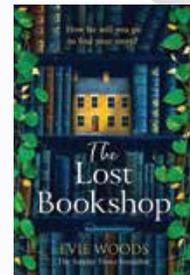
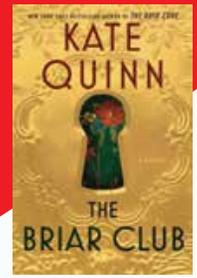
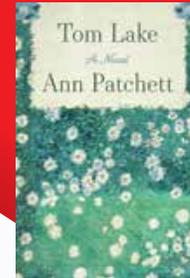
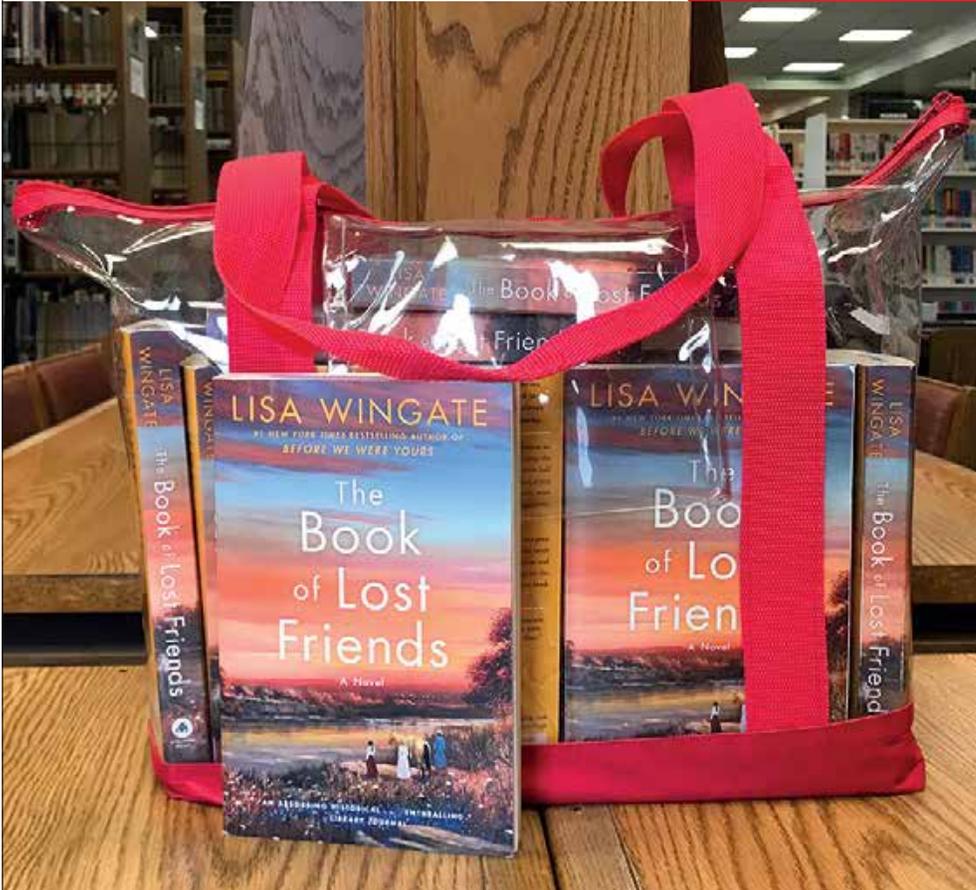


Want to start your own book club, but don't know where to begin? Westchester Public Library can help with that, too – We currently offer over 100 different ready-made [Book Club Kits](#) for checkout (with over a dozen in Large Print), each containing 10 or 20 copies of a thought-provoking book with a list of questions to help your group start talking. Selections range from bestselling literary fiction to thoughtfully-selected classics and compelling non-fiction, so there's something for everyone (and we're always adding new titles). To find a list of available book kit titles, search our catalog for “[book club kit](#)”, or stop by the Library today. We can't wait to read with you!

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WPL BOOK CLUB KITS



Over 100 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**

Diana of the Dunes



Birthday Celebration

**Wednesday, March 25
10-11 AM**

On March 25, 1881, Alice Gray was born in Chicago. Celebrate her life and legacy with a presentation by Susan Swarner and Serena Ard. Light refreshments will be served. For ages 12 and up.

Baughner Center

Call 219-983-9715 for more information.



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



Cupcakes and Canvas



Monday, March 23
10 AM-Noon or 2-4 PM

Tuesday, March 24
10 AM-Noon or 2-4 PM

Register for 1 of the 4 sessions offered



**BAUGHER
CENTER**

Come join us for painting and delicious cupcakes over
spring 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 MARCH 9 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.



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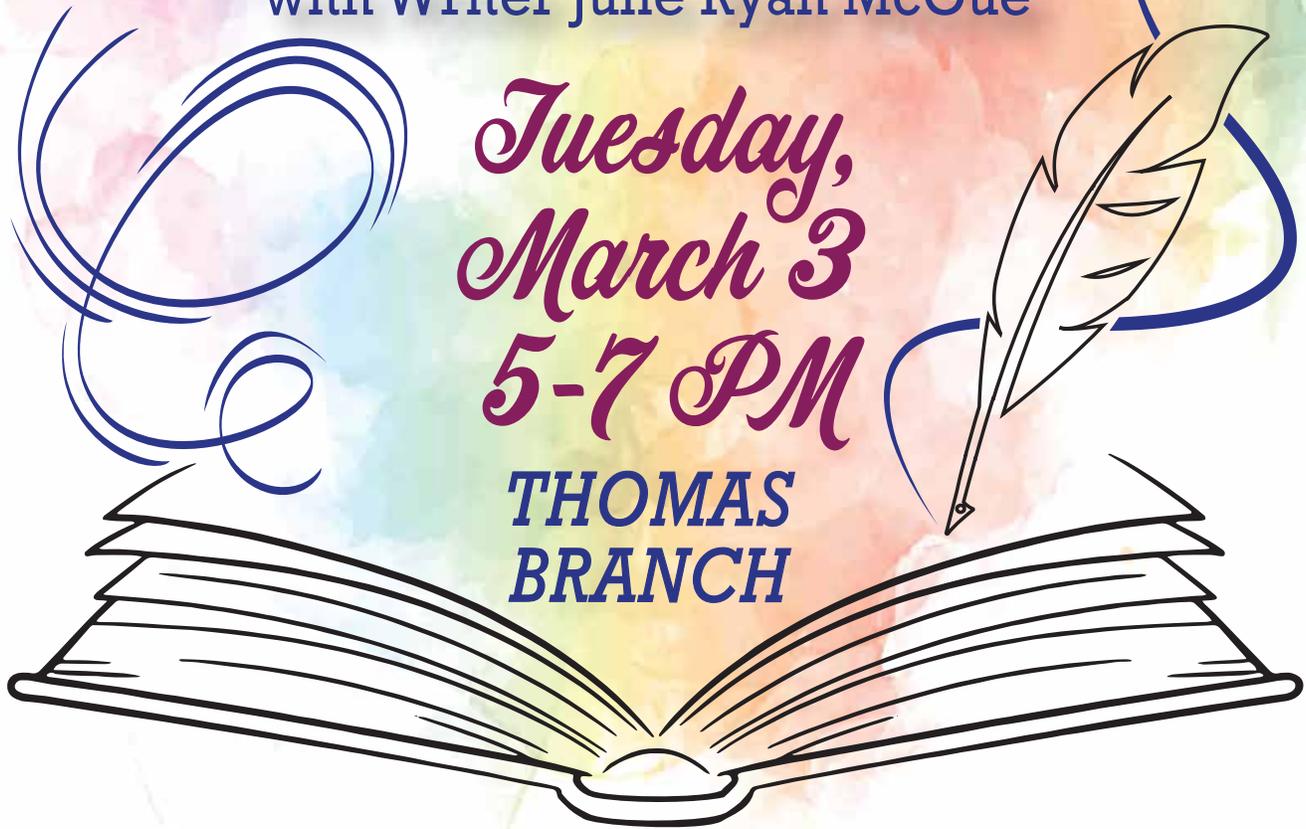


Memoir Magic:

How to Write a Compelling Story
with Writer Julie Ryan McGue

*Tuesday,
March 3
5-7 PM*

**THOMAS
BRANCH**



Join us for a hands-on, generative workshop with award-winning author Julie Ryan McGue. She will discuss how memoir writing is the best genre to reveal your stories.

Handouts and resources will be provided. Notebooks will be available, but participants are welcome to bring their own laptops.

This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

Registration opens FEBRUARY 24

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



Popular Books

DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, March 2 • 2-3:30 PM
THOMAS BRANCH

Code Name Helene by Ariel Lawhon

Told in interweaving timelines organized around four code names real-life French resistance fighter Nancy Wake used during the war, this book is a moving story of enduring love, sacrifice, and unfaltering resolve that chronicles the true exploits of a woman who deserves to be a household name.



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: **APRIL 6**

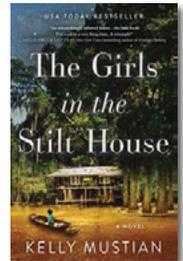
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BIFOCAL BOOKIES

The Girls in the Stilt House by Kelly Mustain

Set in the early 1920s, Mustain's debut focuses on two teenage girls, one white, the other Black, in Mississippi's Natchez Trace. Authentic characters complement the vivid setting—readers will feel the weight of the Trace's humidity—in this nearly flawless tale of loss, perseverance, and redemption.



Limited copies are available at Hageman.

TUESDAY, MARCH 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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Popular Books

DISCUSSION GROUP

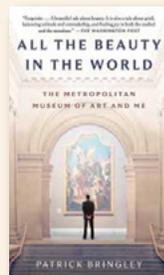
Monday, April 6 • 2-3:30 PM
THOMAS BRANCH

All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me by Patrick Bringley

A former writer for The New Yorker quits his job to find solace in the beautiful surroundings of the Metropolitan Museum of Art as a guard. Two million square feet of unrestricted access to some of the world's finest artworks becomes his temporary refuge for 10 years.

This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

Next Month's Book Club Date: **MAY 4**



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

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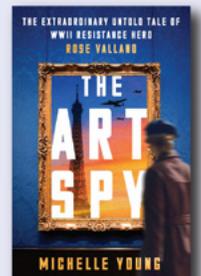


NIGHT OWL BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, March 18 • 6:30 PM
THOMAS BRANCH

The Art Spy by Michelle Young

A riveting and stylish saga set in Paris during World War II, *The Art Spy* uncovers how an unlikely heroine infiltrated the Nazi leadership to save the world's most treasured masterpieces.



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

This program is for adults ages 18 and up.

Registration opens FEBRUARY 18

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

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MARCH

ONLINE AUTHOR TALKS

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

Variety & Lifestyle



MICHAEL PERRY
Wednesday,
March 4
1 PM

Cooking



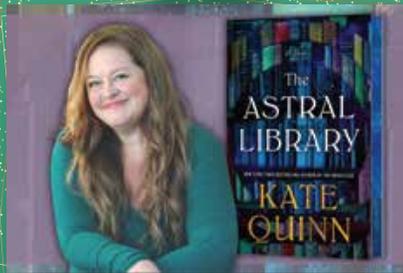
JENN LUEKE
Thursday,
March 5
1 PM

Health & Wellness



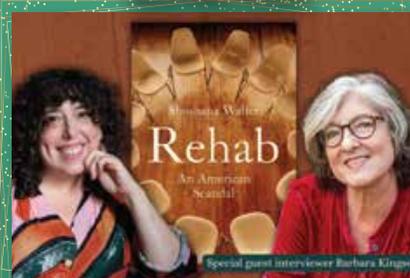
DR. MICHELLE CARR
Wednesday,
March 11
1 PM

Fiction



KATE QUINN
Thursday,
March 12
6 PM

Nonfiction



**SHOSHANA WALTER AND
BARBARA KINGSOLVER**
Tuesday,
March 24
1 PM

ADULT PROGRAM:

Miles and Smiles Walking Club

For Adults Ages 18 and Up



Get your steps in with a 1.5 mile walk leaving from the **THOMAS BRANCH**.
New routes each week!

TUESDAYS,
MARCH
3 • 10 • 17 • 24 • 31
2-2:45 PM

Please note that walking and standing are required for this program. A water bottle, hat, and sunscreen is recommended. Hand weights are welcome. Walk lasts approximately 45 minutes. Registration is required. If a walk is canceled due to weather (rain/snow, temperature, air quality), it will not be rescheduled.

Registration is OPEN!

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



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fiber arts circle

MONDAYS
MARCH 9
APRIL 6
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.

BAUGHER CENTER

Registration is OPEN

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

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MUSICAL BINGO

SONGS of the 60s and 70s

MONDAY
MARCH 20
1:30-2:30 PM

Join us for a game of bingo with a musical twist, featuring music of the 60s and 70s! Sing along and win prizes.
For adults ages 18 and up.

Thomas Branch

Registration opens
MARCH 13

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

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DIAMOND ART MAGNETS

THURSDAY,
MARCH 26
1:30 OR 6:30

Thomas Branch

Create a sparkling floral magnet using diamond painting. All supplies will be provided in this beginner friendly crafting experience.
For adults ages 18 and up.

Registration opens **MARCH 19**

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

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NorthShore
HEALTH CENTERS

Presents:

EmpowHERment



**TUESDAY, MARCH 31
6:30 - 7:30 PM**

Join us for a women's workshop in a supportive and inclusive environment, focusing on the unique mental health challenges that many women face, coping strategies, self-care, and more! Come ready to learn and relax, and leave empowered!

For adults ages 18 and up.

Thomas Branch

Registration opens March 24

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



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WPL'S SUNDAY MATINEE

"A FRESH, BIG-HEARTED COMEDY"

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

TOM BASDEN TIM KEY AND CAREY MULLIGAN

THE BALLAD OF WALLIS ISLAND



HE'S GETTING THE BAND BACK TOGETHER.



RATED PG-13

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 AT 1:30 PM

BAUGHER CENTER

100 W. INDIANA AVENUE, CHESTERTON, IN

FREE POPCORN!



Crochet 101

WEDNESDAYS

4/1 • 4/8 • 4/15

1-2 PM

Have you always wanted to learn how to crochet?

Beginners are invited to join our 3 week class

to learn the basics. Sign up once for all 3 classes.

All supplies provided. For adults ages 18 and up.

Thomas Branch

Registration opens FEBRUARY 24

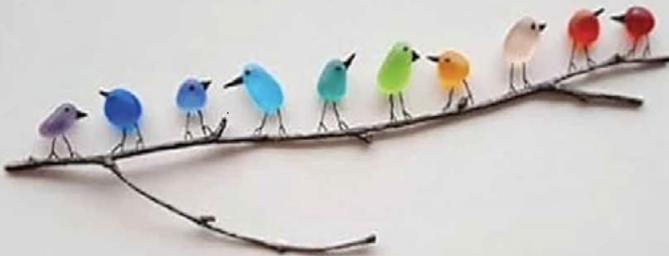
Register online or call 219-926-7696 to reserve your spot.



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Adult Craft: Sea Glass Bird Canvas



TUESDAY, APRIL 7
1-2 PM

Add your own flair to this adorable sea glass canvas.
This program is for adults ages 18 and Up.

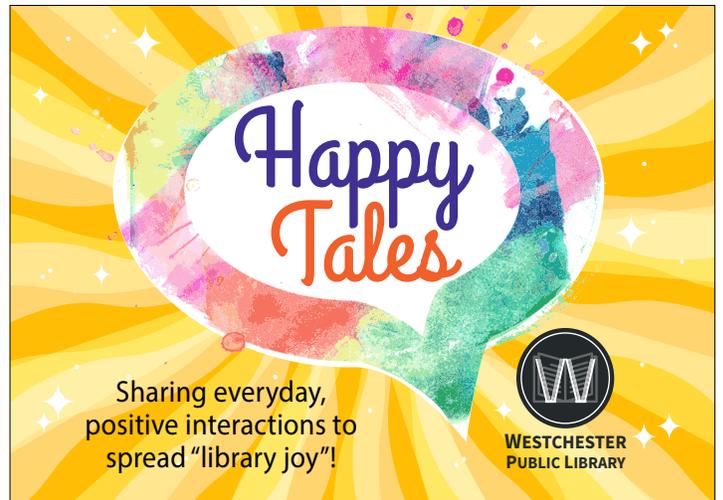
Hageman Branch

Registration opens
MARCH 31

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



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



WESTCHESTER
PUBLIC LIBRARY

From a book club patron:

"I enjoyed the book club and plan to be at next month's meeting. You did a great job with the discussion, and I can't wait to see what unfolds next month."

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.

COMING IN APRIL



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SPRING BOOK SALE

APRIL
SAT. 18 & SUN. 19
9 AM - 4 PM

MEMBERS ONLY PREVIEW ON FRIDAY, APRIL 17, FROM 4 - 8 PM

BAUGHER CENTER

100 W. INDIANA AVE.
CHESTERTON, IN
219-926-7696
WPL.LIB.IN.US

Join the Friends of the Westchester Public Library for their Spring Book Sale. Books and movies of all genres will be available at low prices.

Membership to the Friends of the Library may be purchased at the Thomas Circulation desk, or at the door the first night of the sale.

Proceeds from the sale are donated to WPL and help fund programs for all ages.



**WESTCHESTER
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

FOR TEENS & TWEENS

Mold Your Own Luck

FOR TWEENS AND TEENS IN GRADES 5-12

THURSDAY, MARCH 5
4:30-5:30 PM

It's time to make our own luck!
Join us as we make four-leaf clovers
out of clay and origami.

HAGEMAN BRANCH

Registration opens February 26

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



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TEEN CHESS CLUB

FOR TWEENS & TEENS IN GRADES 5-12

FRIDAY, MARCH 13
4:30-5:30 PM

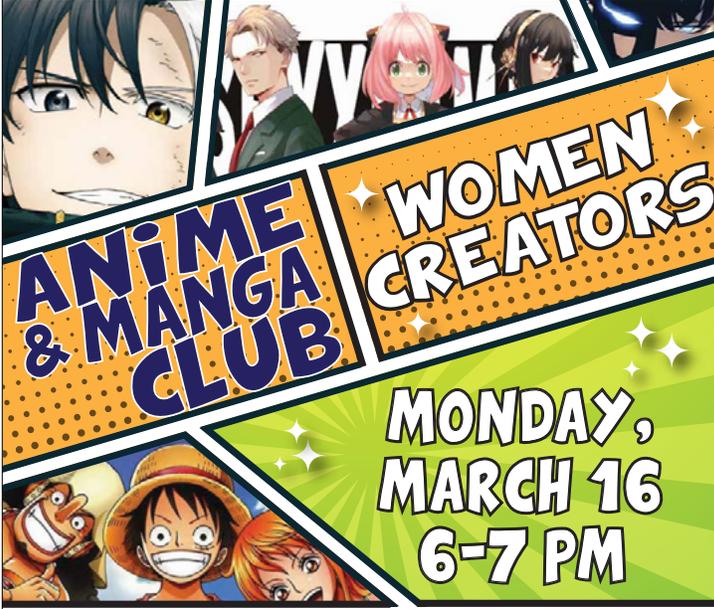
Chess players of all skill levels are welcome to come play, learn, and socialize.

TEEN SPACE

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 6

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

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ANIME & MANGA CLUB

WOMEN CREATORS

MONDAY, MARCH 16
6-7 PM

FOR TWEENS IN GRADES 5-8

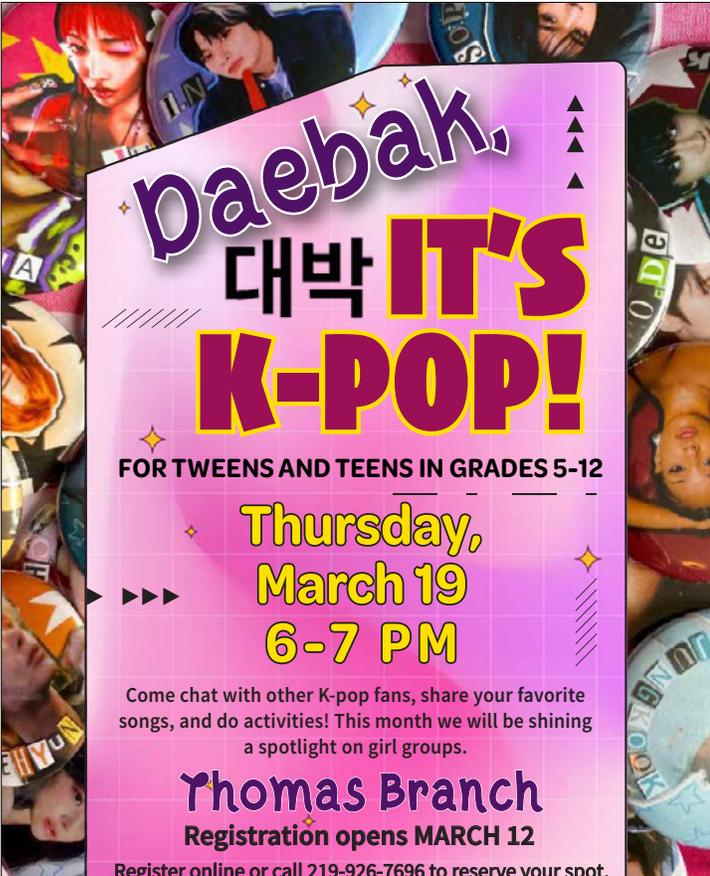
Our monthly meeting for fans to discuss and enjoy anime and manga. This month we will be focusing on stories created by women.

THOMAS TEEN SPACE

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 9

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

Thursday, March 19
6-7 PM

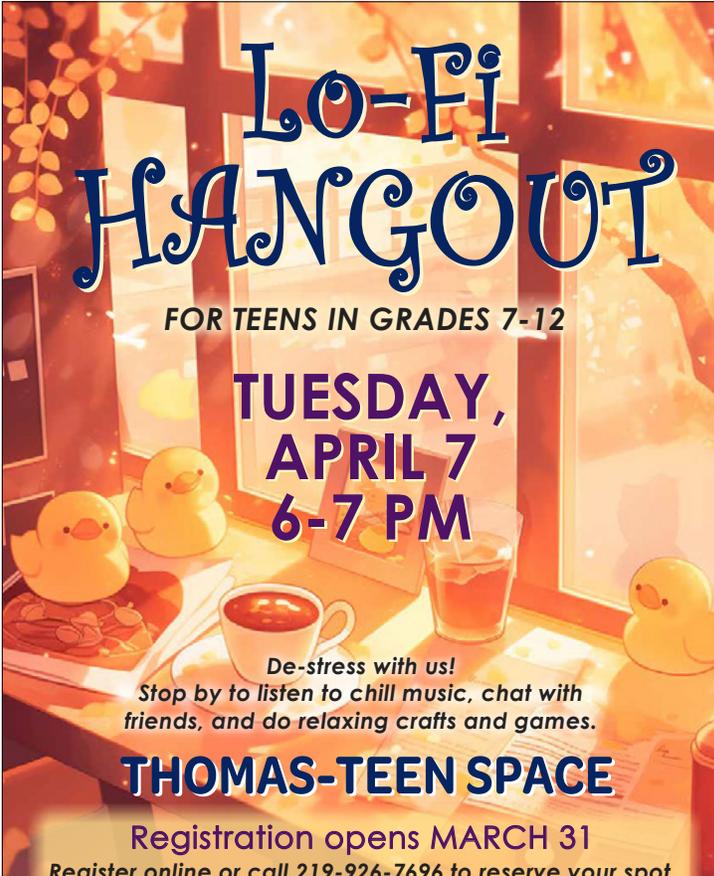
Come chat with other K-pop fans, share your favorite songs, and do activities! This month we will be shining a spotlight on girl groups.

Thomas Branch

Registration opens MARCH 12

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

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Lo-Fi HANGOUT

FOR TEENS IN GRADES 7-12

TUESDAY, APRIL 7
6-7 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 MARCH 31

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

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MAGAZINES OF INTEREST



Women's Health (Thomas print & digital)

Women's Health is filled with actionable and practical advice that you can use today. In every issue, you'll find topics on success strategies, nutrition, weight loss, health, fitness, relationships, beauty breakthroughs, and style & fashion. For women who want to do more, have more, and be more.



Old House Journal (Thomas print & digital)

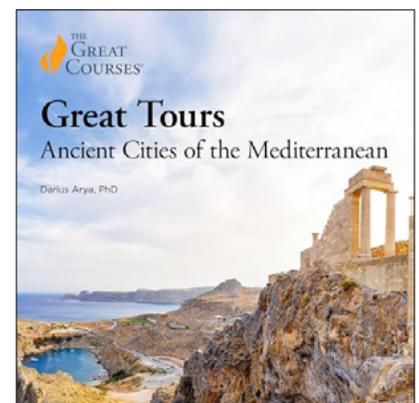
Old House Journal is for people who are passionate about restoring, renovating, decorating and maintaining America's old homes in a manner faithful to their architectural heritage. Get education, resources, tips, and inspiration to tackle and enjoy every step of the restoration process. Look forward to a mix of topics in each issue, from historical overviews, expert how-to's, and first-person restorer experiences, to technical articles offering a wealth of background and advice, to product reviews. It's all about keeping the character while upgrading for modern comfort and your own style.

GREAT COURSES

Great Tours: Ancient Cities of the Mediterranean (DVD)

The Mediterranean is one of the great wellsprings of human civilization. Central to the region's history are the splendorous cities that flowered around the region—bases of power that saw innovation, commerce, expansion, and the building of great empires. Many of these cities have become icons of the ancient world, and exemplars of the cultures, conquests, and ways of life that have built western civilization.

In these 24 lavishly illustrated lectures, Dr. Arya takes you to a rich range of superlative cities across the Mediterranean as well as the astonishing feats of engineering and glorious works of art of the ancient Mediterranean peoples.



FOR KIDS

MAGICAL MARCH

For Kids Ages 2-5 and
Their Caregivers

THURSDAY, MARCH 12
4 - 5 PM

Take a magical journey learning about mythical
creatures like leprechauns, unicorns and fairies.
Join us for stories, songs and crafts.

BAUGHER CENTER

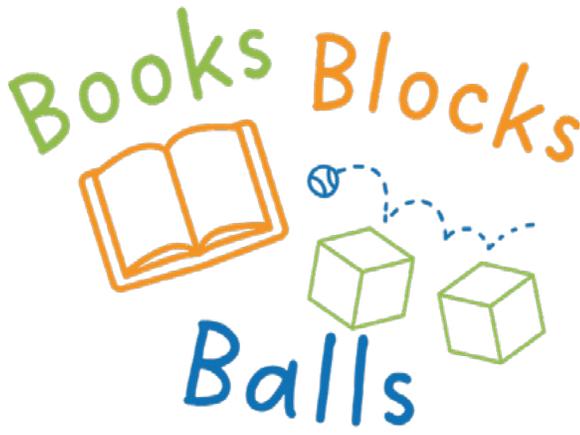
Registration opens **MARCH 5**

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



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Books Blocks Balls

For Families with Children Ages 0-3

MARCH 18 • 10:30-11:15 AM

HAGEMAN 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.



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BRICK ZONE

For Kids in Grades K-4

THURSDAY, MARCH 26
4-5 PM

We provide the LEGO, you provide the imagination!
Join us and other LEGO Master Builders for our monthly building challenge.
Your creation will be displayed at the library.

HAGEMAN BRANCH

Registration opens **MARCH 19**
Register online or call 219-926-9080 to reserve your spot.



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CRAFTERNOONS

PICK-UP CRAFT KIT

at the Hageman Branch

SPONGED RELIEF RABBIT



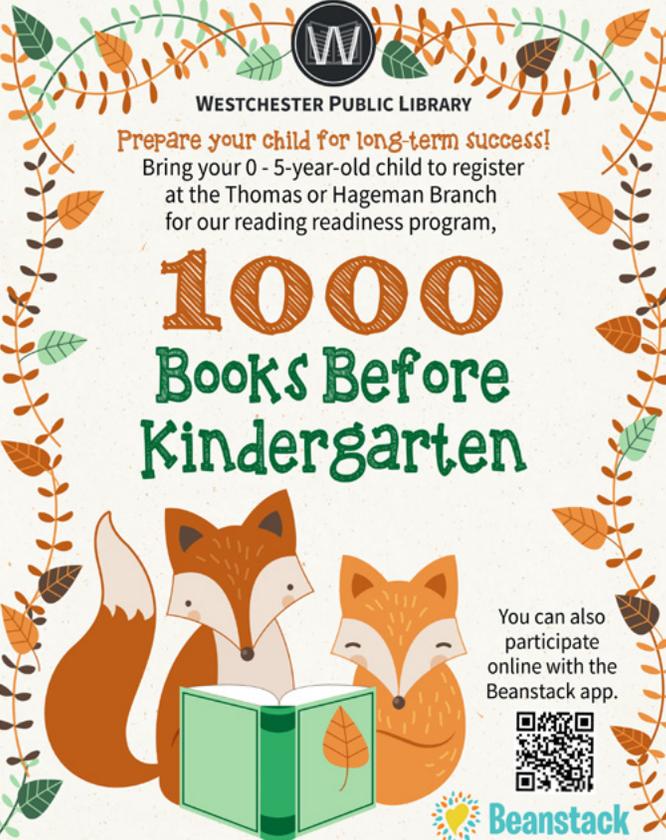
Sponge this rabbit with paint, then watch the magic happen.
This craft kit is for ages 2-6.

Registration opens MARCH 30

Register online or call 219-926-9080 to reserve your kit.
This craft kit may be picked up at HAGEMAN from APRIL 6-13.



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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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STORYTIMES

Toddler Time

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

MONDAYS 10-10:30 or 11-11:30 AM

3/30 • 4/6 • 4/13 • 4/20

THOMAS CHILDREN'S DEPT.

Registration opens **MARCH 23**

For Babies Ages 9-24 Months and Their Caregivers

Join Miss Ronnie for an interactive program filled with stories, songs, rhymes, and fingerplays.

TUESDAYS 10-10:30 or 11-11:30 AM

3/31 • 4/7 • 4/14 • 4/21

FRIDAYS 10-10:30 AM

4/10 • 4/17 • 4/24

Registration opens **MARCH 24**

Tickle Tales

HAGEMAN BRANCH

Little Explorers

THOMAS BRANCH

For Kids Ages 4-6 and Their Caregivers

Join us for exciting tales, silly songs, activities, and more.

WEDNESDAYS 4-4:30 PM

4/1 • 4/8 • 4/15 • 4/22

Registration opens **MARCH 25**

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





**TUESDAY, MARCH 24
7-8 PM**

We're "Hitting the Road" this month with a look at the best Road Trip movies, television, music and places to visit. 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.



MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM (AT THOMAS LIBRARY)

Join the Flashbacks in the Bertha Wood Room 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 comprised of Suzanne Keldsen, Jim Nelson, Marti Pizzini, and Lynn Edgemon. This program is for all ages.

**THURSDAY,
MARCH 12
2 - 3 PM**

For more information call 219-983-9715.

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

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**



Thomas Branch • 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton • 219-926-7696
Hageman Branch • 100 Francis St., Porter • 219-926-9080
Westchester Township History Museum • 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton • 219-983-9715

Westchester Township History Museum

EXHIBIT TOURS • RESEARCH

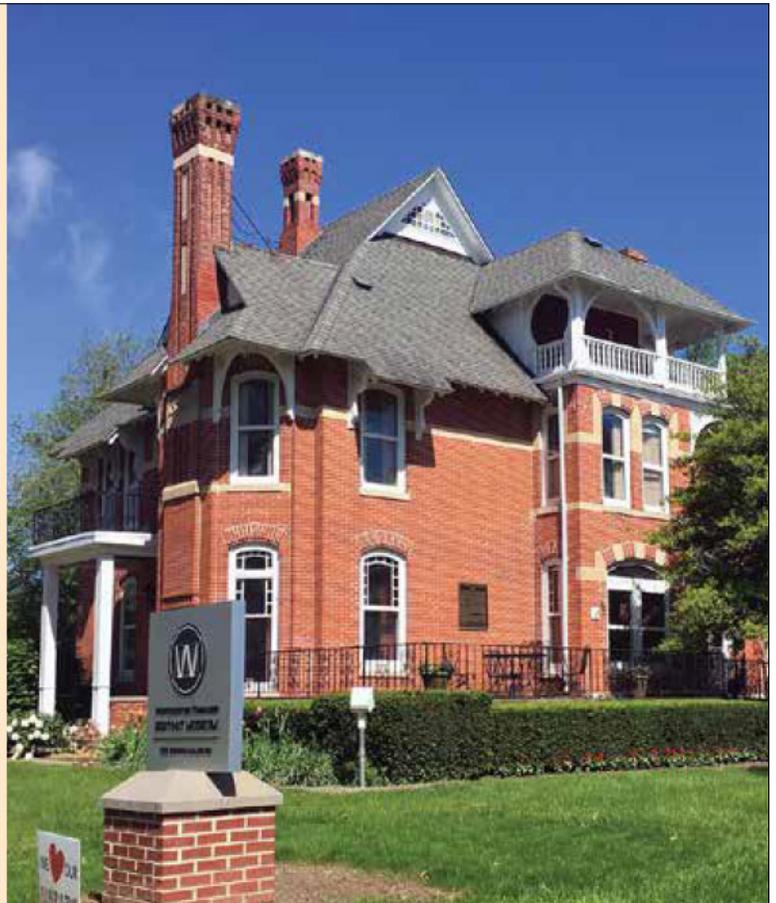
**Sunday & Monday
Closed**

**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 

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



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



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What will you watch?

Movies

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Television Series

Kids Shows

Ideas

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WESTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
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The New York Times

NEWS **GAMES** **COOKING** **WIRECUTTER** **THE ATHLETIC**



NEWS
News and analysis to stay informed on the topics that matter most.

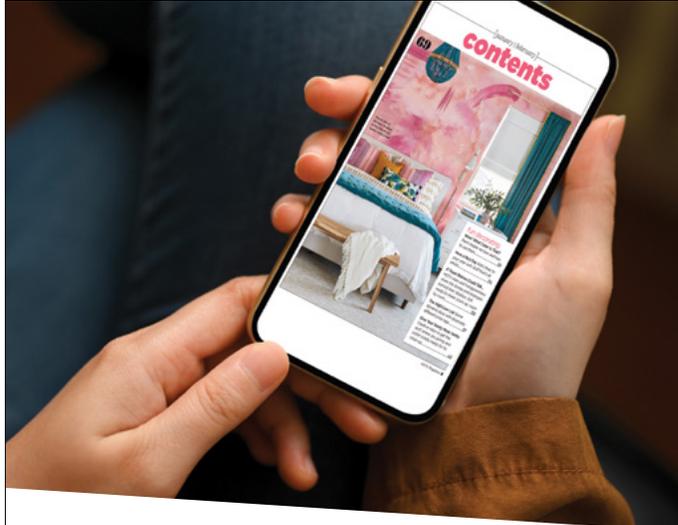
GAMES
Word and visual games that encourage problem-solving and offer a mental break.

COOKING
Recipes, advice and inspiration that build confidence and creativity in the kitchen.

WIRECUTTER
Independent product reviews that help consumers make more informed decisions.

THE ATHLETIC
Personalized sports coverage that encourages literacy and community engagement

Understand the world. Navigate life.
Access The New York Times here.
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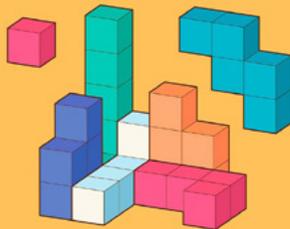


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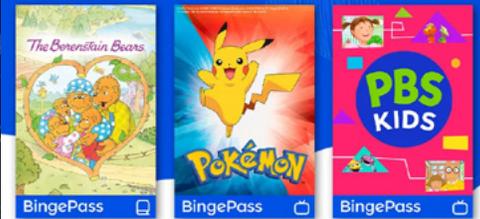
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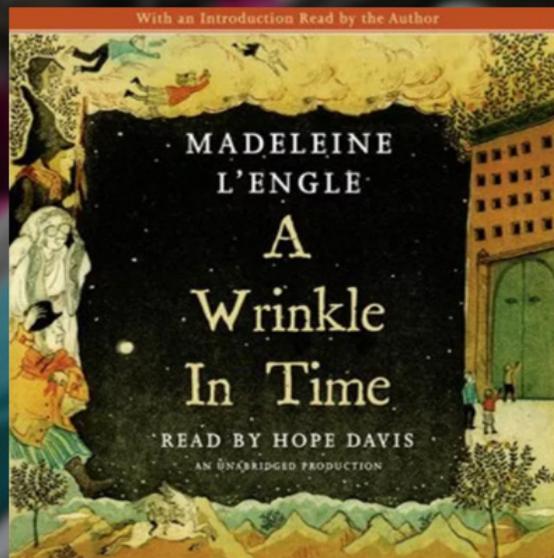


hoopla BingePass

Tons of content just for kids

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 travel.



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. 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!

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

HAGEMAN BRANCH • 100 FRANCIS ST.,
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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

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please call 219-926-7696
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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.

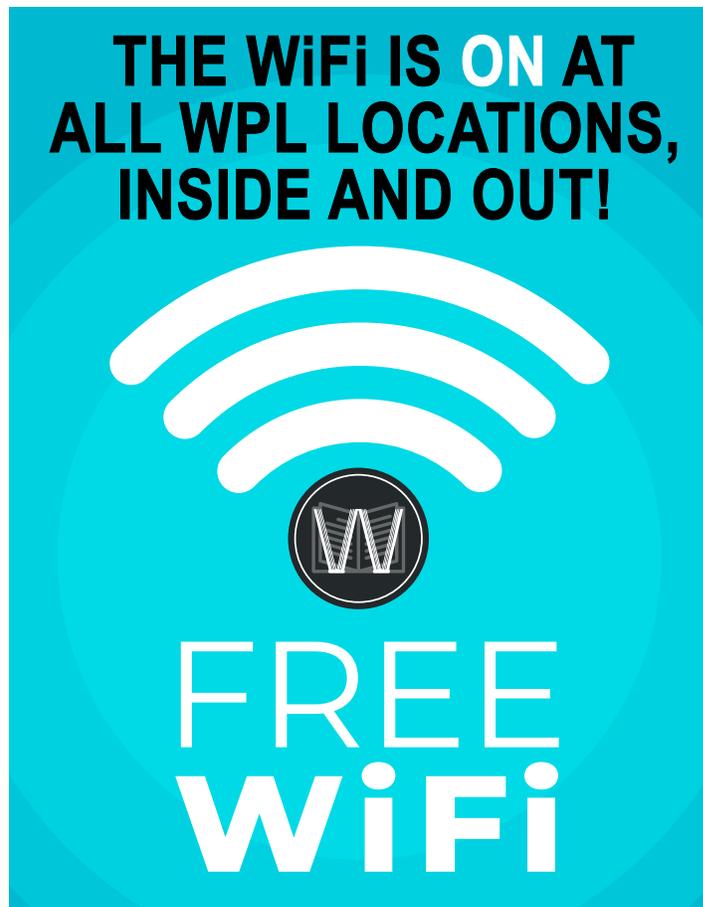
 **Duneland Ghost Towns Series**

 **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: *Zootopia 2* // **Rating:** PG

Synopsis: After cracking the biggest case in Zootopia's history, rookie cops Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde find themselves on the twisting trail of a great mystery when Gary De'Snake arrives and turns the animal metropolis upside down. To crack the case, Judy and Nick must go undercover to unexpected new parts of town, where their growing partnership is tested like never before.

Movie Title: *Song Sung Blue* // **Rating:** PG-13

Synopsis: Based on a true story, two down-on-their-luck musicians form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band, proving it's never too late to find love and follow your dreams.

Movie Title: *The Running Man* // **Rating:** R

Synopsis: Desperate to save his sick daughter, working-class Ben Richards is convinced by *The Running Man's* charming but ruthless producer to enter the deadly competition game as a last resort. But Ben's defiance, instincts, and grit turn him into an unexpected fan favorite — and a threat to the entire system. As ratings skyrocket, so does the danger to Ben.

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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.