

Waukegan Public Library Spring Happenings



March - May 2025

Library Trustee Meet and Greet

Wed., 4/19, 5:30-7:30pm

Join us to connect with the Waukegan Public Library Board of Trustees and learn about the library's vision, share your thoughts, and discover how you can be part of our mission. Stop by to ask questions, engage in conversation, and explore the library's exciting initiatives.

Library After Hours: A Foundation Fundraiser

Sat., 4/12, 6-10pm

Join us for an adults-only evening of community, celebration, and support at the Waukegan Public Library! This special event helps fund vital library services and improvements to public spaces that enrich the lives of our community members. Connect with fellow supporters in an engaging atmosphere complete with food, drink, raffles, DJ, and liquor tasting. Since 2023 the Foundation's work has supported the addition of a mobile services van, a Sensory Room, and a Maker Space to the library's offerings. Your support makes a difference—let's build a stronger future together! Tickets are on sale now. For more information, visit www.waukeganpl.org/giving/foundation-2/.



National Library Week 2025: Drawn to the Library!

This annual celebration highlights the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities. In our always-online world, libraries are a truly special place to connect with others, learn new skills, and focus on what matters most. Libraries are there for you, all the way to the finish line.

National Library Week Bookmark Kits

All Ages, Sun., 4/6-Sat., 4/12, while supplies last
It's National Library Week, and what better way to commemorate the occasion than with a bookmark you've made by hand? Use beads, tassels, and more to design a bookmark worthy of any great book! Available at the Youth and Adult Services Desks.



Summer Reading Program

May 27-August 10

The Summer Reading Program encourages people of all ages to read throughout the busy summer months. Prizes and special events make the program extra fun and exciting! Learn more about how you can participate at our Kick Off Party on Sunday, June 1 from 2-4pm. Enjoy the Traveling World of Reptiles (2-3 pm), face painting and art projects, snacks, a dance party and selfie station, and tasty snacks. This program will be outdoors and moved inside in case of inclement weather.



Updating Library Spaces

The library is excited to announce that a renovation of the Youth Services Department will take place this March-June. Aside from the adjacent ELC, the lower-level Youth space has not been updated in 25 years. The modernized space will include a new open entry, group study rooms, study furniture and comfy seating, vibrant new carpet, additional computers, and exploration stations. While space may be limited during construction, services and programs for young people and families will continue through the project. A reopening event will be announced when the remodel is complete. For more information and pictures, please visit the library's website. Funding for this project was provided from the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of the Secretary of State, using Public Library Construction Grant Funds.

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*Register at www.waukeganpl.org/calendar or call 847-623-2041

*Regístrate en www.waukeganpl.org/calendar o llame al 847-623-2041

Kids & Families

National Reading Month Bingo

Kids, Sat., 3/1-Mon., 3/31

This National Reading Month, challenge yourself to read enough books to cross off a bingo row and receive a prize. For an even bigger challenge, complete blackout bingo and enter to win the grand prize!

LEGO® Club

Kids & Families, Saturdays, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 2-3pm

Join our LEGO® Club for exciting individual and group challenges inspired by a new theme each month. Bring your imagination and see what you can create!

Women's History Month: Perler Beads

Grades K-5, Mon., 3/3, 5-6pm

Celebrate Women's History Month by diving into the incredible stories of famous women throughout history and bringing them to life with your own perler bead design.

National Dentist Day

Grades K-5, Thurs., 3/6, 4-5pm

Learn helpful tips on taking care of your teeth with a guest presentation from a Dr. Nishant from Waukegan Family Dental, then enjoy trivia, stories, and crafts.

Take Home Monster Craft Kits

Grades K-5, Mon., 3/10-Fri., 3/14, while supplies last

Little Wonders

Ages 3-5 with caregiver, Wednesdays, 5-6pm

Dive into exciting topics through interactive stories, fun games, and creative crafts

3/12: All About Spring

4/9: Down on the Farm

5/14: Art Fun

Tasty Tales

Grades K-5, Saturdays, 2-3pm

Join us for a fun-filled session where we'll read a book together and then put our cooking skills to the test by making a delicious snack inspired by the story!

3/15: *Green Eggs and Ham*

4/19: *Smart Cookie*

5/17: *Spider Sandwiches*

Tot Art

Ages 18 months-3 years with caregiver

Tuesdays, 11:15am-12pm

Explore and create through various forms of arts and crafts.

3/18: Playdough Fun

4/22: Blow Art

5/20: Pompom Collage

Kinder Ready

Ages 3-5 with caregiver, Wednesdays, 5-6pm

Gain skills for kindergarten through crafts and games.

3/19: Sorting and Cutting Skills

5/21: Sequencing and Storytime

STEM Studio

Grades K-5, Thursdays, 4-5pm

Learn about science, engineering, and math while you play games and complete fun projects.

3/20: House of Cards

4/17: Balloon Tower Challenge

5/15: Sailboat Races

Thinking Money For Kids: (English/Spanish)

Grades K-5, 3/21, 4/24, 5/22, 4-5pm

Learn about money and finances through a variety of interactive play-based stations designed for kids of all ages.

Blackout Poetry

Grades K-5, Sun., 4/6-Sat., 4/12, while supplies last

In celebration of National Poetry Month come try your hand at blackout poetry.

Shining Stars

Ages 4-8, Wednesdays, 5-6pm

Join us for wacky games and make a spring banner.

3/26: Spring Games and Crafts

4/23: STEM Challenges

5/28: Bookworms—*Croc and Ally*

DIY Yarn Bird Kits

Grades K-5, Sun., 4/20-Sat., 4/26, while supplies last

Earth Day Cookie Decorating

Kids & Families, Tues., 4/22, 5-6pm



Storytime & More

Family Storytime

Ages 0-5 with caregiver

Mondays & Thursdays, 10:30-11am

Join us for an interactive storytime with music, movement, and literacy activities.

Baby, Books, and Bounces Storytime

Ages 0-18 months with caregiver, Tuesdays, 10:30-11am

Join us for a fun-filled storytime with movement, books, and song.

Bilingual Storytime: English/Spanish

Ages 0-5 with caregiver, Wednesdays, 10:30-11am

Join us for an interactive storytime with music, movement, and literacy activities in English and Spanish.

Disfruta de música, movimiento y divertidas actividades en inglés y español.

Baby Playdate @ the Library

Babies with caregiver

Wednesdays, 3/12, 4/16, 5/14, 11am-12pm

Drop in to the Early Learning Center to engage in imaginative play and build friendships with other caregivers and parents. Coffee and hot tea will be provided.

Niños y Familias

Fun and Fancy: Doll Tea Party

Grades K-5, Fri., 3/28, 4-5pm
Join us for a delightful doll tea party featuring treats, games, and a special doll to take home!

Autism Awareness: Sensory Hour

Kids & Families, Wed., 4/2, 5-6pm
In honor of World Autism Awareness Day, join us for a sensory program designed for kids of all abilities.

Kohl Children's Museum: Mobile Learning Lab

Ages 2-8, Tues., 5/20
10:30am-12:30pm
Make new friends while you explore and play!

Minecraft Makers

Grades K-5, Wed., 4/9, 5-6pm
Join us in the new Maker Space to design your own blocky Minecraft t-shirt with our sublimation printer.

Chick Hatching

All Ages, April 10-May 10
In partnership with the University of Illinois Extension, we're bringing the fascinating process of chick-hatching to life. Join us for an educational and exciting journey as we incubate and watch the chicks hatch!

Peep Science

Grades K-5, Wed., 4/16, 4-5pm
Learn about chemical reactions and engineering through three fun experiments with this classic spring candy.

United Way Early Learning Club: Alphabet and Writing

Ages 3-5, Wed., 4/16, 5-6pm
Practice the alphabet and writing through games and crafts.

Poem in Your Pocket Day

Kids & Families, Fri., 4/18, while supplies last
Vote for the poem that makes you smile, then pick a poem to take home and share with others.

Imaginary Pets Take Home Craft

Grades K-5, Sun., 5/25-Sat., 5/31, while supplies last

Día de los Niños (Children's Day)

Kids & Families, Sun., 4/27, 2-4pm
Join us this Día de los Niños for a vibrant celebration of kids, culture, and community! We'll enjoy crafts, games, snacks, and an interactive and educational performance.

Niños y Familias, domingo, 4/27, 2-4pm

¡Únase a nosotros este Día de los Niños para una vibrante celebración de los niños, la cultura y la comunidad!
¡Disfrutaremos de manualidades, juegos, bocadillos y una actuación interactiva y educativa!

Baby Chick Birthday Party

Grades K-5, Sat., 5/3, 2-3pm
Join us for an egg-citing time. We're celebrating our baby chicks' birthdays with games, crafts, and cake!

Take Home Star Wars Craft Kits

Grades K-5, Sun., 5/4-Fri., 5/9, while supplies last

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo: Loteria

Kids & Families, Mon., 5/5, 3:30-5:00pm
Learn about Cinco de Mayo and play Loteria!

Mother's Day Flowerpots

Grades K-5, Fri., 5/9, 4-5pm

Onigiri Making

Grades K-5, Mon., 5/12, 5-6pm
Learn how to shape onigiri, a versatile and popular Japanese snack made of rice, seaweed, and a variety of fillings.

Tiny Trebuchet Take Home Kit

Grades K-5, Sun., 5/18-Sat., 5/24, while supplies last
Come pick up a tiny trebuchet kit to build your own catapult, and learn a bit about physics in the process!

Volunteering for Books!

Grade 6-12, Sat., 3/1-Mon., 3/31
This National Volunteering Month, show us a volunteering timesheet, a note from a neighbor you've helped, or an acknowledgement from a volunteer coordinator and choose a free book! Books are available at the Youth Services Desk.

Teen Maker Tutorials*

Grades 6-12, Mondays, 4:30-6pm
Get creative with our new Maker Space equipment and supplies!
3/10: K-pop Crafts
4/14: Poetry Month Makes
5/19: Graduation and Summer Creations

Crafternoon*

Grades 6-12, Thursdays, 4:30-5:30pm
Explore your artistic side with various arts and crafts projects!
3/13: No-Bake Dog and Cat Treats
4/10: Poetry Collage
5/8: Galaxy Sensory Jars

Tween & Teens

FAFSA Sessions

Mondays, 3/17, 4/7, 5/12, 6-7:30pm
If you need help with FAFSA, come to obtain help to fill out the application. Necesitas ayuda con FAFSA? Ven para recibir ayuda para llenar la aplicación.

Teen Chef*

Grades 6-12, Tuesdays, 4:30-6pm
Level up your cooking skills by making fun, easy snacks!
3/18: Quesadillas
4/15: Snack Box Arrangements
5/13: Smoothies

Creative Writing Workshop

Grades 6-12, Tues., 3/25, 4:30-6pm
Bring in or work on your latest writing project and give and receive encouragement from other teens.

College Fair

Saturday, 4/26, 1:30-4 pm
Meet with college and university representatives and learn about the higher education opportunities available to you!

2010s Nostalgia Night

Grades 6-12, Mon., 4/21, 4-5:30pm
It's a blast-from-the-past party! We're bringing back the songs, games, snacks, and style of the 2010s!

DIY Mother's Day Flower Arrangements

Grades 6-12, Tues., 5/6, 5-6pm
Create a flower arrangement to show your mom how much she means to you!

De-Stress Fest

Grades 6-12, Wed., 5/14, 4:30-6pm
Make relaxing crafts, put together self-care boxes, and chill out before the school year ends!

Adults/Adultos

Yoga with Doug*

Adults, Mondays, 3/3-5/19, 6-7pm
Calm your mind as you learn new yoga poses and meet new people. NOTE: No yoga on 5/12 & 5/26.

Computer Drop-in Lab/Ayuda con la computadora

Adults, Mon.-Fri./lunes-viernes, 10am-12pm
Let us help you with your basic computer needs from managing your email to job application and more.
Permítanos ayudarte con necesidades básicas de computadora cómo manejar correo electrónico, crear tu resume, aplicación de trabajo y mucho más.

Conversational English/Clases de inglés conversacional*

Adults/Adultos, Wednesdays/miércoles, 5-6pm
Join us to practice English conversation.
Te invitamos a practicar conversar en inglés.

PADS

Adults, Wednesdays, 1-3pm
Meet with staff from PADS to learn about their services, such as housing, food, and mental health resources.

Computer & Technology Basics

Adults, Saturdays, 1:30-2:30pm
Learn basic technology skills!
3/1: Computer Basics (Windows)
4/5: Internet Basics
5/3: Cybersecurity Basics

Job Search Workshops

Adults, Tuesdays, 1-2:30pm
Join these workshops to gain skills that will help you achieve success in your Job Search journey.
3/4: Job Search 2.0
3/11: Interview & Negotiation
3/18: Branding 101

HACES Citizenship Classes- HACES*

Adults, Tuesdays, 3/4-5/27, 6-7:30pm
Let a professional from HACES help prepare you for the citizenship test. If you have any questions or to register, please call Rosa Elena at 224-628-5953 or 847-244-0300.

Clases de Ciudadanía - HACES*

Adultos, Jueves, 3/6-5/29, 6-7:30pm
Deje que un profesional de HACES lo ayude a prepararse para el examen de ciudadanía. Si tiene alguna pregunta o desea registrarse, llame a Rosa Elena al 224-628-5953 o al 847-244-0300.

Habilidades Sociales Parte II con Angie Sauer

Adultos, miércoles, 3/5, 5:30-6:30pm
Venga y aprenda por qué desarrollar habilidades sociales es importante y cómo pueden ayudar a comunicar de una forma efectiva y eficiente con los demás.

Adult Maker Space Lab*

Adults, Wednesdays, 6-7pm
Learn to use our new Maker Space equipment to create cool projects! Registration required.
3/5: Sew your own tortillero/tortilla holder
4/2: Design a tote bag
5/7: Embroider your own servilletas/napkins

Gentle Yoga

Adults, Fridays, 3/7-5/30, 10:15-11:15am
Join us to strengthen your muscles and mind.
Únete a nosotros para fortalecer tus músculos y mente.

Coloring Hour!

All Ages, Fridays, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 4-5pm
We'll provide the coloring supplies and snacks – you just need to bring your creativity!

Art & Chat: Arte y Charlas

All Ages, Saturdays/sabados, 2-3:30pm
Come meet new people as you create art.
Ven y conoce gente nueva mientras creas arte.
3/8: The art of marbling/arte del mármol de agua
4/12: Jewelry Making /Joyería
5/10: Glass Bottle Lanterns/Linternas de botellas de vidrio

Bingo Binge @ The Branch

Adults, Mondays, 3/10, 4/14, 5/12, 2:30-3:30pm
Play Bingo and win prizes at the Hinkston Park Branch.

I Meant to Read That Book Club*

Adults, Tuesdays, 1-2pm & 6:30-7:30pm
We will discuss a popular book each month. Come to the Adult Services Desk to receive a copy of the book.
3/11: *The Elements of Marie Curie* by Dava Sobel
4/8: *Shout* by Laurie Halse Anderson
5/13: *Afterparties* by Anthony Veasna So

Illinois Small Business Development Workshop*

Adults, Wed., 3/12, 6-7pm
Join this workshop to learn how to create and manage a small business and let the experts guide you.

Hidden Figures: Film Viewing

Adults, Mon., 3/17, 3:30-5:30pm
Come watch a powerful biographical drama highlighting the contributions of three African American women mathematicians at NASA during the 1950s and 1960s, showcasing their role in America's Space Race success.

Crafterwork*

Adults, Wednesdays, 6-7pm
Unwind after work while crafting thoughtful gifts.
3/19: Monogrammed Handkerchief
4/23: Light-Up Greeting Cards
5/21: Framed Flowers

Rosalind Franklin Mobile Clinic

All Ages, Thursdays/jueves, 3/20, 4/17, 5/15, 1:30-4:30pm
Free Health Screenings, blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol (fasting), health education, COVID & flu vaccine (when available) and questions about medication, review lab results, connections to primary care.

Exámenes de salud gratuitos, presión arterial, azúcar en sangre, colesterol (en ayunas), educación sobre la salud, vacuna contra el COVID y la gripe (cuando esté disponible) y preguntas sobre medicamentos, revisión de resultados de laboratorio, conexiones con atención primaria.

Adults/Adultos

No Kitchen? No Problem!

Adults, Fridays, 4:30-5:30pm

Learn to cook delicious meals without a kitchen.

3/21: Microwave Meals

4/18: Waffle It Again

5/23: Make a Charcuterie Board

Successful Vegetable Gardening: University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners

Adults, Mon., 3/24, 4-5:30pm

Looking to start a vegetable garden? This presentation covers all the basics, including planning the garden (site selection, vegetable selection, and supplies), preparing the soil, planting techniques, and caring for the established garden. Planting times for warm and cool-season vegetables are discussed as well. Visit www.go.illinois.edu/SuccessfulVegetableGardening-WPL to register.

Ray Bradbury Story Hour

Adults, Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30pm

Join us for casual, monthly discussions of short stories by Ray Bradbury.

3/26: *The First Geeks* Author Visit with Orton Ortwein

4/30: *The Sound of Thunder*

5/28: *The Million Year Picnic*

Ask a Master Gardener

All Ages, Thursdays, 3/27, 4/24, 5/29, 3-5pm

Extension Master Gardeners will help find solutions for your gardening questions.

Maker Space Update

Thanks to the generosity of the Waukegan Public Library Foundation and our incredible donors, our new Maker Space is officially open! This innovative space is designed to inspire creativity, hands-on learning, and collaboration for all ages.

Explore programs designed to help you make, build, and create—Maker Space-focused programs are highlighted in green throughout our newsletter. From embroidery and vinyl cutting to sewing and digital design, there's something for everyone to discover.

Come see the Maker Space in action and join us for a class. Open Lab hours coming this soon!



Presentación de Alzheimer:

Asociación nacional de Alzheimer

Adultos, miércoles, 4/2, 4-5pm

Conozca las 10 Señales de Advertencia de la Enfermedad de Alzheimer.

Poet-Tree Workshop with Sharon Epps

Adults, Wed., 4/9, 4-5pm

Join our poetry workshop with local poet Sharon Epps to unleash your creativity! Whether you're new or experienced, come explore your imagination.

AbilityOne Compliance – Goodwill

Adults, Wednesdays, 3/5, 3/19, 4/2, 4/16, 5/7, 5/21, 12-3pm

Come meet the staff at AbilityOne Compliance and learn about their services for people with disabilities.

Let's Get Financially Fit!

Adults, Tues., 4/15, 4-5pm

Join Money Smart Week to learn how to create an effective budget and control of your finances using Financial Fit.

Auto-Estima Parte II con Angie Sauer

Adultos, miércoles, 5/7, 5:30-6:30pm

Como seres humanos en ocasiones nos sentimos inseguros. Venga y aprenda cómo el valor interno se produce por dentro y solo nosotros podemos decidir cómo nos sentimos de nosotros mismos.

ArtWauk: Chinese Folk Dance Workshop*

All Ages, Sat., 5/17, 2-3pm

Discover the beauty of Chinese folk dance in this engaging workshop led by a talented instructor from the Yin He Dance Center.

National Strawberry Month: Strawberry Spinach Salad/Ensalada de Fresas y Espinacas*

Adults, Wed., 5/20, 4-5pm

Celebrate National Strawberry Month with a tasty strawberry spinach salad and learn how strawberries journey from farm to market.

Celebre el Mes Nacional de la Fresa con una sabrosa ensalada de fresas y espinacas y aprenda cómo las fresas viajan desde la granja hasta el mercado.

Senior Citizen Health Fair

Adults, Fri., 5/30, 3-4:30pm

Learn about local health resources available to seniors!

Exhibits & Displays

March: Picturing Women Inventors Exhibition

Women Inventors is a series that highlights the inventions of 19 accomplished American women. This remarkable group includes astronauts, computer pioneers, businesswomen, athletes, engineers, and even teenagers.

April: Crochet Art Display

Come and experience the charming crochet creations by Abby Matus. Don't miss your chance to be inspired by their unique artistry!

3 hours of free parking is available in Parking Lot C. Library visitors must check in with your license plate number at the Customer Service Desk to validate.

W. Clayton St. 

Waukegan Public Library
128 N. County St., Waukegan, IL
847-623-2041
www.waukeganpl.org

Main Library
Monday-Thursday 10am-8pm
Friday 10am-6pm
Sat-Sun 1pm-5pm

Biblioteca Principal
lunes-jueves 10am-8pm
viernes 10am-6pm
sábado-domingo 1pm-5pm

Hinkston Park Branch
800 Baldwin Ave., Waukegan, IL
Monday-Friday 10am-2pm
Saturday-Sunday Closed
lunes-viernes 10am-2pm
sábado-domingo cerrada

Library Closed
Biblioteca Cerrada
April 20 Easter Sunday
May 25 & 26 Memorial Day

Board of Trustees Meetings
March 19, April 16, May 21

The Waukegan Public Library may take photos or videos of patrons on the premises and at library programs and events for use in promotional materials.

La Biblioteca Pública de Waukegan puede tomar fotos o videos de los usuarios en las instalaciones y en los programas y eventos de la biblioteca para usar en materiales.

For accommodations at an event or class, please contact us allowing seven days' notice to best serve you.

Para brindarle un mejor servicio, si necesitas arreglos especiales para un evento o clase, comuníquese con nosotros, con siete días de anticipación.

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Early Learning Center (ELC) Update
Thank you for your patience as we enhance this vital community space! The revamped ELC features a house with a yard, play-pretend market, Everbright light wall, reading tree, art and activity tables designed to promote motor skills, sensory discovery, and creativity. Built to be durable and accessible, it will provide families with an engaging, lasting space for gathering, discovery, and growth!



Library Trustees Spotlight
This Newsletter, we're spotlighting library trustees Christa Sanchez, Robb Freeman, and Brett Mitchell (left to right), whose love for reading and libraries enriches our community!

Christa is currently reading *The Book Eaters* and joined her fellow trustees for this photo in our newly renovated Early Learning Center.

Robb loves revisiting *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*, a novel filled with practical magic, dry British humor, and footnotes best enjoyed with a cozy blanket and tea. Since he's given away all his copies, he's grateful to borrow it from the library whenever he misses it!

Brett loves digital library resources and how easy it is to access books, movies, and more with a library card. His favorite app, Hoopla, offers free streaming and downloads of eBooks, audiobooks, comics, and movies. He also recommends checking out Libby!

Friends of the Waukegan Public Library Summer Book Sale
Sat., 5/31
• Members Only, 10am-12pm
• General public, 12-4:30pm
Sun., 6/1
• General public, 11-4:30pm

The Friends of the Waukegan Public Library will host their Summer Reading Kick-Off Book Sale, offering a great selection of books while supporting the library. Don't miss out!

Summer Concert Series
The Friends of the Waukegan Public Library will be sponsoring the Summer Concert Series every Friday in June, July, and August (excluding July 4) from 12-1pm in our courtyard. Join us for great music and community fun.

Library on the Go!
The library's Mobile Services Van is hitting the road this spring. Visit us at community events throughout Waukegan, where we'll bring books, resources, and engaging activities right to you. Whether you're looking to check out a great read, learn about library programs, or connect with library staff, we'll be there.

Join us at Eggstravaganza Trail at Rose Park on Saturday, April 19, from 9-11am. We'll be handing out treats and getting your ideas on how the library can meet you where you are! Stay tuned for more event dates.

