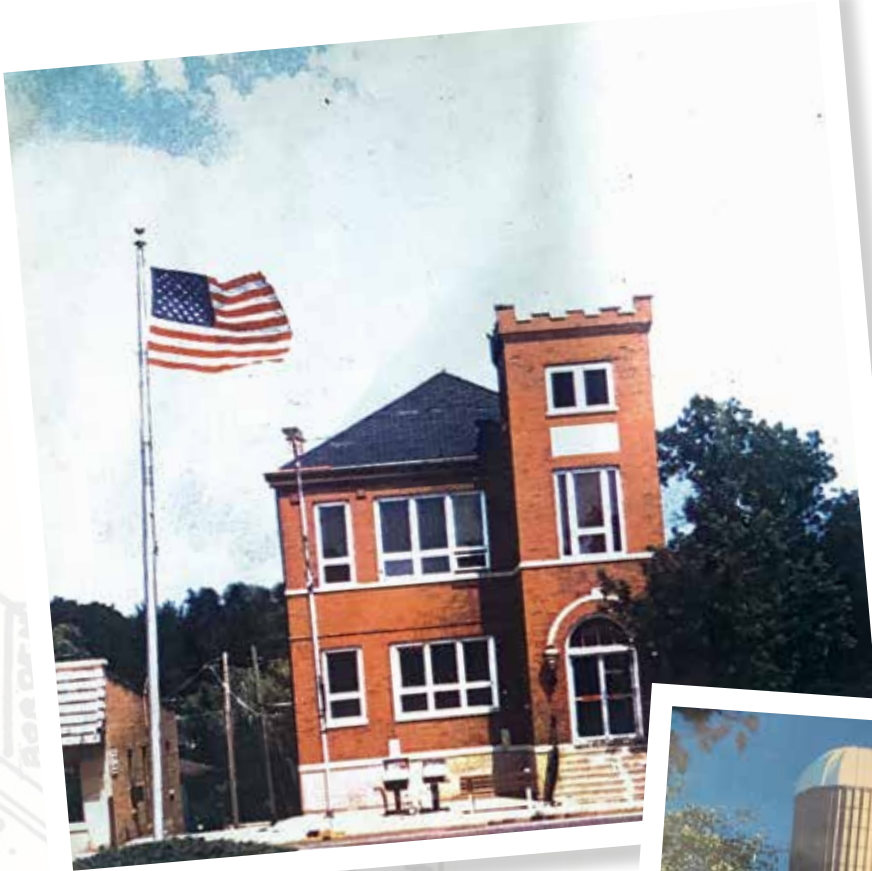
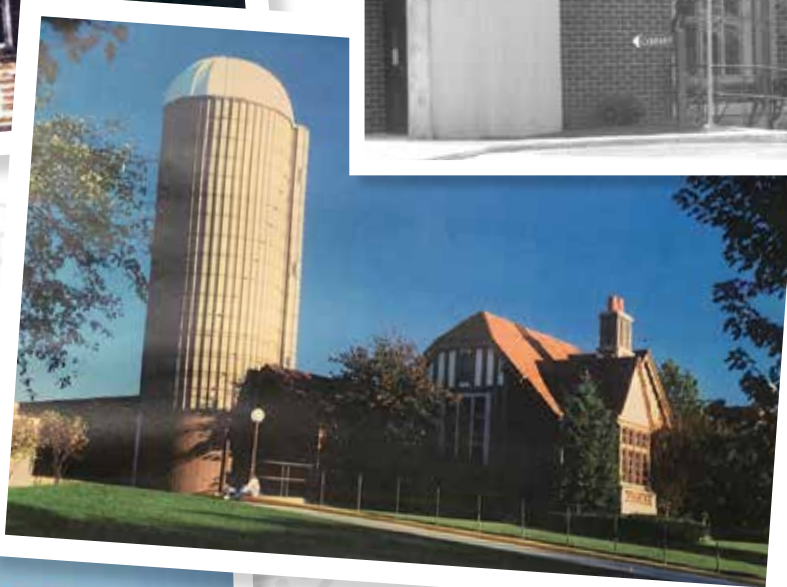


Cary Area Public Library

Shelf Life



CAPL's first location at 4 Crystal St.



CAPL's second location at 255 Stonegate Rd.



CAPL's current location at 1606 Three Oaks Rd.



Winter 2025-26

Library's 75th Anniversary
Winter Reading
Jigsaw Puzzle Competition
Scrabble Tournament
Benefits of ASL for Babies

Event Registration

View complete event descriptions on our online Events Calendar. Registration begins Thursday, November 13 at 9 am online (caryarea.librarycalendar.com), in person at the Service Center, or by phone (847-639-4210, press 0) and is required for programs noted with an RR. Registered patrons' spots may be given to those on the waitlist if they are 10 minutes late. You don't need a CAPL card to register for events unless otherwise noted.

The Library makes every effort to ensure our events can be enjoyed by all. A sensory bin that includes noise-cancelling headphones, a small weighted lap pad, and a visual schedule is available upon request during our events. Please contact us if you have any concerns about accessibility or need to request specific accommodations.

Photos and videos may be taken during events for publicity purposes. Notify Library staff if you do not wish to be photographed.

Friends of the Cary Area Library (FOCAL)



Upcoming Meetings at the Library

Thursday, December 4, 7 pm
Thursday, February 5, 7 pm

Community -> FOCAL -> Library -> Community

Thanks to the great support of the community for our book sales we were able to purchase 19 items for the Library this year including:

- New furniture for the Children's Area
- New toys for the Children's Area
- Books for the StoryWalk
- AWE kids' computer replacement
- Archival supplies (for local history preservation)
- Branded pen giveaways for new library card sign ups
- A hotspot for Outreach use
- and much more!

FOCAL Membership

Want to be more involved in the above cycle? New members are always welcome (must be 18+ and membership is free). We are a non-profit organization giving proceeds to the Library for special projects and programs: caryarealibrary.org/focal

Open

Monday-Thursday 9 am-9 pm
Friday-Saturday 9 am-5 pm
Sunday 1-5 pm

Closed

December 5 Closed 9-1, Open 1-5
December 24 Christmas Eve
December 25 Christmas Day
December 31 New Year's Eve
January 1 New Year's Day
February 6 Closed 9-1, Open 1-5

Contact Us

847-639-4210 phone
caryarealibrary.org

Stay Informed

Sign up for emails from us
caryarealibrary.org/newsletters

Get Carded

Apply for a library card online or in person at the Service Center
caryarealibrary.org/getcard

Drive-up Window & Returns

Pick up your holds at our Drive-up Window (east side of the building). Return materials 24/7 into the slots.
caryarealibrary.org/driveup

Homebound Delivery

We'll bring the Library to CAPL cardholders who are homebound due to age, illness, or physical disability
caryarealibrary.org/homebound

Newsletter

December 2025-February 2026

Do you have a story to share for a future issue? Questions or comments about the newsletter? Let us know: news@caryarealibrary.info

Contributors

Sara Sky
Katy Roth

A Year of Celebration CAPL's 75th Anniversary

2026 is our 75th birthday. We're going to celebrate and you're invited! Keep an eye out for activities throughout the year, starting with our year-long reading program (see details at right).

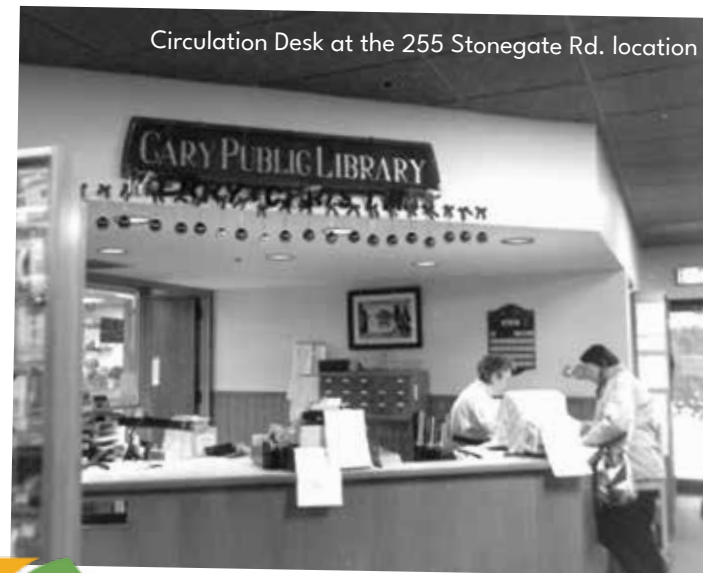
So, how did we get here?

In 1951, Mrs. Elden Weaver led a movement to formally become a public library and be tax-supported. A six member board was elected. In 1954, the Library was offered the larger room of the Village Hall at 4 Crystal Street (Route 14). Then a year later, the Library took over the entire first floor after the Village moved.

In 1976, to alleviate crowded conditions, the Library rented a store two doors down from the main location, where meetings and children's events were held. A referendum passed that same year for a new building that would be part of the planned Community Center at 255 Stonegate Road (with the Park District). Fun fact: the entrance to the Library was through a barn silo!

Almost two decades later in 1995, the Library became a district by referendum and in 1997 ground was broken for our current building, donated by local developer Thomas Decker (now deceased). We then moved here in 1999.

Visit caryarealibrary.org/75years for more.



Diamond Reading Program January 2-December 30, 2026

Help us celebrate our 75th anniversary by joining us for our favorite activity—reading! We're ringing in this special occasion by asking you to read up to 75 books for adults, teens, and kids, or 750 picture books for kids 0-6. Get a badge for every book you read (or a badge every ten books for ages 0-6). Earn a prize if you read 25 (250 for 0-6), 50 (500 for 0-6), and 75 (750 for 0-6) books.

We'll have 3 levels of prizes throughout the program at the 25, 50, and 75 books.

Prize Level 1: Prize book
Prize Level 2: Tote bag
Prize level 3: T-Shirt

The amount of books might seem like a lot but as they say, no pressure, no diamonds! And, don't forget, you can read for this program concurrent to all our other reading programs (Winter, Summer, and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten).

New Executive Director

We will be welcoming a new Executive Director this fall. Please stay tuned to our website and social media channels for our announcement once a new Director has been named. We look forward to this new chapter!

Winter Reading • December 15-January 19



LET YOUR IMAGINATION SOAR

Sign up for our all ages Winter Reading Challenge beginning December 15 and receive a goodie (while supplies last). Readers can earn tickets into the grand prize drawing for each book or activity completed. Activities will include reading another book, attending a Library event, submitting a special 75th anniversary testimonial, or donating items for the food pantry (see below). Those who complete the required reading will earn a finishing prize (while supplies last).

To track your books, we recommend downloading the Beanstack app to your device but you may also log your reading online through our website on Beanstack or on a paper log, which you can access beginning December 15 online: caryarealibrary.org/winterreading

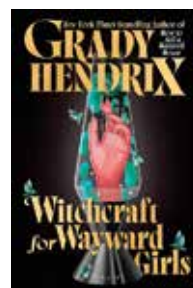
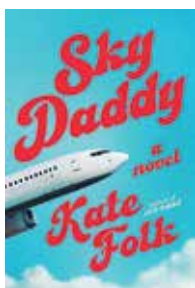
Food Pantry Drive

During Winter Reading we will be collecting nonperishable food and household items for the Cary-Grove Food Pantry. *Psst: If you donate an item, you can earn an extra Winter Reading badge and ticket towards the grand prize!*

From fantasy to flight, let your imagination soar with these staff suggested titles!

Adults

- *Sky Daddy* by Kate Folk
- *The Familiar* by Leigh Bardugo
- *Witchcraft for Wayward Girls* by Grady Hendrix
- *Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History* by Keith O'Brien

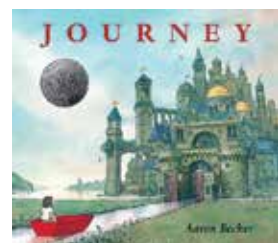
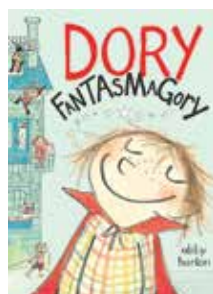


Teens

- *A Language of Dragons* by S.F. Williamson
- *Wings of Starlight* by Allison Soft
- *Six Crimson Cranes* by Elizabeth Lim
- *Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo

Independent Readers

- *Dory Fantasmagory* by Abby Hanlon
- *Adventuregame Comics: Leviathan* by Jason Shiga (book 1)
- *Homeroms and Hall Passes: Heroes Level Up* by Tom O'Donnell
- *Houses with a Story* by Seiji Yoshida



Young Readers

- *Journey* by Aaron Becker
- *If You Find A Leaf* by Aimee Sicuro
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- *I Took the Moon for a Walk* by Carolyn Curtis



Adults

RR = registration required

Historic Chicago Bakeries

Wednesday, December 3, 7-8 pm

As immigrants came from outside the United States and settled in pockets around Chicago, each neighborhood had its own bakery—sometimes several. Join author Jennifer Billock as she explores the sweet and doughy history of Chicago from pioneering bakers to today's cake makers. [RR](#)

Evil on the Roof of the World

Friday, December 12, 2-3 pm

Join National Bestselling Author, William Hazelgrove as he presents the story behind his latest book, *Evil on the Roof of the World*. Follow the story of Lauren Geoghegan and Jay Austin, whose idealistic cycling adventure ended in tragedy. [RR](#)

More Stories Behind the Best-Loved Songs of Christmas

Wednesday, December 17, 7-8 pm

Celebrate the season with this heartwarming program of music and storytelling featuring vocalist/storyteller Jenny Riddle and pianist Jeffrey Panko. From beloved carols and the Hallelujah Chorus to the nostalgic charm of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, Jenny brings these songs to life through captivating stories and live performance. [RR](#)

Relationships with the Land and Peoples of McHenry County

Thursday, December 18, 6:30-8 pm

Join local educator, Sarah Taylor of the Crystal Lake Park District's National Historic Landmark, the Colonel Palmer House, for a demonstration on sustainable gardens, histrionic culinary, and the many uses of native plants. From earth to kitchen, discover the science behind safe, modern-day practices and a branch of knowledge that has survived for thousands of years. [RR](#)

Gleeful Gift Wrapping

Saturday, December 20, 10 am-12 pm

Do you find it hard to wrap presents without curious eyes trying to peek around corners or from closets? Then join us for an open house gift wrapping event! We'll listen to some festive music, sip on hot beverages and snack on some holiday treats. Wrapping paper, bows, and twine will be available, until supplies run out. Drop in.



Gonnella, one of Chicago's historic bakeries

Winter Solstice: Return of the Light

Sunday, December 21, 2-3:30 pm

Join us in making paper cup luminaries to celebrate the Winter Solstice. These luminaries are the perfect way to brighten up the dark evenings of the season. [RR](#)

Winter Sowing

Tuesday, January 6, 7-8 pm

Master Gardener Doug Moore will provide hands-on instruction on how to sow your seeds indoors, using repurposed materials you probably have around the house. Please bring a clean and empty milk jug to use as a planter. [RR](#)

Cozy Classic Film Night: *The Mirror Crack'd*

Wednesday, January 7, 6-8:30 pm

Based on Agatha Christie's novel, *The Mirror Crack'd from Side to Side*. Angela Lansbury stars as Miss Marple, the wily, spinster sleuth, whose shrewd intelligence and familiarity with quaint English life help her crack the case. A short discussion of the film will follow the viewing. Refreshments will be provided. Registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome.

Agatha Christie: *A Body of Evidence*

Monday, January 12, 7-8 pm

In the spring of 1950, Agatha Christie accompanied her husband, archaeologist Max Mallowan, to Iran and she tells of Kalhu, the ancient city also known as Nimrud. Join her in *Beit Agatha*, as she reminisces about her childhood, her life as a writer and adventurer, and contemplates beginning her autobiography—a project that took nearly 20 years. [RR](#)

Native Landscapes for Winter Beauty

Wednesday, January 14, 7-8pm

Plants bring beauty and function to the winter landscape! Sarah Michehl with The Land Conservancy of McHenry County will give winter landscaping tips that show off the beauty of our native grasses, wildflowers and shrubs. She will also share the connection between wildlife and these particular plants. [RR](#)

3D Printing Pens

Saturday, January 17, 10-11:30 am

Create 3D art with your own hands! You'll be able to choose from a variety of Winter-themed designs. [RR](#)

Dolly Parton: Heartstrings and Harmony

Wednesday, January 21, 7-8 pm

With Dolly's signature warmth and charisma, historical presenter Michelle Gibbons will bring to life the inspiring story of a woman who rose from humble beginnings to become a global icon. Perfect for long-time Dolly Parton fans and newcomers alike. [RR](#)

Animals of the Chinese Zodiac and You

Wednesday, January 28, 7-8 pm

The Chinese use the zodiac animals to encourage positive qualities in ourselves by learning from the natural world. Your Chinese zodiac animal may have hidden qualities you were not aware of. Join the mane event and find out why the Year of the Horse has a colt following. [RR](#)

Cozy Classic Film Night: *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*

Wednesday, February 4, 6:30-8:30 pm

Based on Tennessee Williams' first novel of the same name and starring Vivien Leigh and Warren Beatty, it's story of a middle-aged American stage star, whose wealth can't compensate for her fading beauty. A short discussion will follow. Light refreshments will be served. Registration encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome.

Valentine's Origami

Monday, February 9, 6:30-8 pm

Get ready to celebrate Valentine's Day by creating some festive origami crafts! You'll learn how to make Roses, Woven Hearts, and Heart Pockets that carry a cat. [RR](#)

Shakespeare and Stardust: The Romance of Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier

Wednesday, February 11, 7-8 pm

Vivien Leigh and Laurence Olivier were two of the most iconic figures in the history of theatre and film. Join Film Historian Dr. Annette Bochenek for a multimedia presentation about their legendary performances, turbulent romance, and legacies today. [RR](#)

Demystifying Hypnosis

Wednesday, February 18, 7-8 pm

Discover the truth about hypnosis and how it can support your well-being. We'll clear up common myths, explain how it really works, and explore its many benefits for personal growth and healing. [RR](#)

Google Workspace 101: Google Photos

Saturday, February 21, 10-11:30 am

In this class, we'll learn about Google Photos, so that you can take advantage of all the options available. We'll provide laptops, but you can bring in your own computer if you would like to practice on a more familiar device. [RR](#)

Nature Journaling

Wednesday, February 25, 7-8 pm

Whether you are in your own yard or garden, a forest preserve or park, or traveling, there is always the opportunity to strengthen your connection to nature. Master Gardeners Kim and Cathy will explain the rewarding practice of nature journaling. [RR](#)



DISCUSSIONS & GROUPS

Books on Tap @ Cary Ale House

Tuesdays, Dec. 16, Jan. 20, and Feb. 17, 7-8:30 pm
Socialize and discuss the chosen title with others in their 20s-30s. Email Jessica at jkling@caryarealibrary.info to join and find out the current title.

Adult Book Discussion Groups *RR*

Books are available each month at the Service Center.

Hooked on Books • Wednesdays, 10:30-11:45 am

December 3: *A Council of Dolls* by Mona Susan Power

January 28: *Gods of the Upper Air* by Charles King

February 25: *James* by Percival Everett

Turning Pages Together • Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm

December 18: *Kala* by Colin Walsh

January 29: *The Girl from Greenwich Street*

by Lauren Willig

February 26: *Harriet Tubman: Live in Concert*

by Bob the Drag Queen

2026 Great Decisions

Thursdays, January 15, February 5, 6:30-8 pm

Engage in lively discussion of foreign policy issues hosted by Adult Program Coordinator, Rita McNeely. Each month a different topic from the Great Decisions Briefing Book will be discussed. Members can expect to watch videos, read, listen to a guest speaker when available, or even be asked to moderate a session themselves. Registrants must purchase the Briefing Book for \$15; no refunds. *RR*

True Crime Book Club

Thursday, February 19, 6:30-8:30 pm

Adults and teens 16+. We'll read and discuss *What the Dead Know: Learning About Life as a New York City Death Investigator* by Barbara Butcher. *RR*

Cary Area Writers Group (CAWG)

Second Saturday of the month, 12-3 pm

Writers ages 21+. Bring copies of your writing to pass around for gentle, constructive critiques. Questions? Email kurterickwalters@gmail.com.

Genealogy Interest Group

Fourth Sunday of the month, 2-3 pm (no Dec. meeting)

Interested in genealogical research? Share and learn with us. Drop in, no registration required.

ONLINE EVENTS

Discover Kwanzaa: Meaning, Symbols, and Traditions

Tuesday, December 2, 7-8 pm

Zoom. Celebrate the spirit of Kwanzaa with storyteller Elizabeth Kahura. Discover the holiday's origins, explore its seven guiding principles, and learn the meaning behind its symbols. *RR*

Scholarships, Grants, and Loans

Thursday, January 22, 6-7 pm

Zoom. This workshop from My College Planning Team will reveal insider information on scholarships, grants, and loans to help make your college planning both successful and affordable. *RR*

Project Management 101: Part 1

Thursday, January 22, 7-8 pm

Zoom. Join Michael Spilg, PMI-certified instructor, to explore an overview of project management tools. While he'll mention PMI and the PMP certification, the main focus is on understanding how different project types are managed. No prior knowledge or experience is required. This presentation does not count for Professional Development Units. *RR*

Civic Awareness Series with the League of Women Voters: An Evening with Paul Lisnek

Tuesday, January 27, 7-8 pm

Zoom. The League of Women Voters of the Palatine, Schaumburg, and Barrington areas, in cooperation with 30+ area libraries, are proud to welcome WGN-TV's Paul Lisnek to speak about Illinois politics, as well as help prepare participants for the upcoming November midterm elections. *RR*

Board Game Arena Virtual Game Night

Monday, February 2, 6:30-8 pm

Zoom. Games are chosen by the attendees, based on whatever you want to play! First-timers will need to create a free Board Game Arena account. [RR](#)

Project Management 101: Part 2

Tuesday, February 3, 7-8 pm

Zoom. Michael Spilg, PMI-Certified instructor, returns. Get an overview of AI tools like OpenAI, ChatGPT and an introduction on how to utilize them to enhance project productivity. No prior knowledge or experience is required. This presentation does not count for Professional Development Units. [RR](#)

Echoes of Africa: Art and Folktales

Thursday, February 12, 7-8 pm

Zoom. In celebration of African American Heritage Month, join cultural educator Elizabeth Kahura for a virtual journey through Africa's rich heritage using storytelling, poetry, proverbs, and riddles. She'll explore traditional folktales, fables, and myths alongside arts and crafts, wood carvings, handmade instruments, clothing, jewelry, and cultural artifacts. [RR](#)

Online Night with a Museum: Lake Placid Olympic Museum

Tuesday, February 17, 7-8 pm

Zoom or stream it live on [YouTube.com/@SchaumLib](https://www.youtube.com/@SchaumLib). In 1974, shortly after the 1980 Olympic Winter Games were awarded to Lake Placid, community members decided to create a collection of materials pertaining to the Games. Staff from the museum will share stories from their collection helping us celebrate the 2026 Winter Olympics. Presented in partnership with other Illinois libraries. [RR](#)



Classroom Kitchen Fall Series

Zoom. Each class is a cook/bake-along in your kitchen as chef Kristyn Slick works in hers. Recipes will be provided via email prior to the class. [RR](#)

Cheesecake 101

Wednesday, December 10, 6:30-8 pm

Kristyn will show you the secrets to a perfectly smooth base, how to avoid cracks, and how to create both classic and fun flavor twists!

Grains and Greens: Cozy Meets Nourishing

Wednesday, January 14, 6:30-8 pm

We'll explore vibrant recipes like warm grain bowls, stuffed greens, and flavorful pilafs that prove nutritious can still be comforting.

Brownies, Blondies, and Brookies

Wednesday, February 11, 6:30-8 pm

We'll bake up rich, fudgy brownies, chewy blondies, and brookies. Learn tips for customizing textures, flavors, and swirls to create your own signature bars.

Illinois Libraries Present

Zoom. These online events are made possible by a statewide public library collaboration. Find the full line-up online at caryarealibrary.org/ilp [RR](#)

Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig

Tuesday, January 13, 7-8 pm

Jonathan Eig is the bestselling author of six books, including his most recent, Pulitzer Prize-winning *King: A Life*. Vividly written and exhaustively researched, it is the first major biography in decades of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. and the first to include recently declassified FBI files.

Still Afraid of the Dark: R.L. Stine

Tuesday, February 24, 7-8 pm

Witty, creepy, and compulsively readable, bestselling author R.L. Stine defined horror for a generation of young readers. The generation that grew up with the Goosebumps franchise may be grown, but Stine keeps finding ways to keep us afraid of the dark! Join us with The Guinness Book of World Records' "most prolific author of children's horror novels," R.L. Stine, to discuss his illustrious and still-expanding body of work.

Multi-Age

Participants across different age groups (listed in the descriptions) can attend. RR = registration required



Maker Mondays supplies and artist prompt

Maker Mondays Drop-In

December 1, 8, 15, 29

January 5, 12, 19, 26

February 2, 9, 16, 23

10 am-5 pm

All ages; kids 8 and under must be with an adult. We'll have various craft supplies and inspiration for you to stop by and create. Drop in, no registration required.

Puzzle and Board Game Swap

Saturday, December 6, 1-2 pm

All ages. Calling all board game and puzzle fanatics! Bring in board games and/or puzzles with no missing pieces and swap 1:1 with board games and puzzles that are new to you! Drop in, no registration required.

Trivia Night

Thursday, December 11, 7-8:30 pm - Winter Reading

Thursday, February 5, 7-8:30 pm - Valentine's Day

Ages 14+. Compete in teams of up to four by correctly answering questions. Bonus points for coming dressed as your favorite winter sport or cold weather character in January and red, pinks, or other fits that scream my Valentine in February! Register under one name and enter your total team number. [RR](#)

Third Annual Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

Saturday, January 3, 12-3 pm

Test your puzzle prowess in the third annual CAPL jigsaw puzzle competition! Compete to see which team can complete a 500-piece puzzle the fastest. There are two categories of competitors: Adult (ages 18+) and Family (at least one 18+ and at least one under 18). Register under one name and enter your total team number (up to four). If you are a single registrant, please note it in the comments section, and we'll try to match you up to other single registrants. [RR with a CAPL card.](#)

First Annual Scrabble Tournament **NEW!**

Saturday, February 14, 1:30-3 pm

Gather your vocabulary for a friendly competition against other wordy experts in our First Annual Scrabble Tournament. We'll play 20-minute games and after each game, scores will be calculated. The highest scoring players will move on and be paired with another player. The top finisher will be awarded the coveted First Place Scrabble Trophy. Light refreshments will be provided. [RR](#)

Club de Recién Llegados / Newcomer Club

Lunes 12 de enero, 6-7 pm

Todas las edades. Únete a este grupo acogedor y de apoyo, diseñado para ayudar a personas y familias que acaban de llegar al país a conectar con otros a través de juegos de mesa y a adaptarse a su nuevo ambiente. Comenzaremos con un cuento, seguido de juegos de mesa y rifas. No se requiere inscripción.

Monday, January 12, 6-7 pm

All ages. Join this welcoming and supportive group designed to help individuals and families who are new to the country connect with others through board games and adjust to their new environment. We will begin with a story, followed by board games, and raffles. Drop in, no registration required.

Teens

RR = registration required

Dungeons and Dragons: Character Workshop

Monday, December 8, 6:30-7:30 pm

Grades 6-12. Create your own Dungeons and Dragons character. Be prepared to do some creative thinking, reading, and math using copies of our players handbook. You'll take your character home, along with a folder full of D&D info, and your very own set of dice! RR

Robotics Basics

Monday, December 8, 6:30-8:30 pm

Grades 6-12. Intro to our LEGO SPIKE Prime robots. This class is the prerequisite for the Robotics Workshops. RR

Teen Volunteer Board

Tuesdays, December 9, January 13, February 10, 7-8 pm

Grades 6-12. Join this fun service club to help with Library projects and earn volunteer hours. RR

Magic the Gathering

Tuesday, December 16, 6-7 pm

Grades 6-12. Are you an experienced MTG player? Great! Never played before? We'll teach you! RR

Button Art

Tuesday, December 16, 7-8 pm

Grades 6-12. Create art using buttons as the primary material. Buttons vary in size, shape, and color and are glued onto a canvas to form images or patterns. RR

Freestyle Fridays

Fridays, December 19, February 13, 11:30 am-2:30 pm

Grades 6-12. Drop-in and hang out. We'll have Switch games, board games, craft supplies, and snacks! What you do is up to you. CJH students have a half day of school on these dates. Drop in, no registration required.

Dungeons & Dragons

Saturdays, December 20, January 17, February 21, 1-4 pm
Zoom; grades 6-12. New and returning players welcome for this fantasy role-playing game. Characters will be provided for you to play during the game. Register for the first game, and be automatically registered for the following two. RR

Teen Gaming

Tuesdays, Dec. 23, Jan. 27, Feb. 24, 7-8:30 pm

Grades 6-12. Play board games and video games, including a selection of Nintendo Switch, Switch 2, and Wii U games. Registration preferred, walk-ins welcome.

Build-A-Robot

Sunday, January 18, 1:30-4 pm

Grades 6-12. Build one of the LEGO EV3 robot designs and then download the program to activate it. RR

No Sew Heart Pillow

Tuesday, January 20, 7-8 pm

Grades 6-12. Spread a little love this upcoming Valentine's Day by creating a heart-shaped pillow using felt and stuffing. No sewing required. RR

Robotics Workshop

Mondays, January 26, February 23, 6:30-8:30 pm

Grades 6-12. Develop programming skills with the LEGO SPIKE Prime robots. You must have attended the Robotics Basics to attend these workshops. RR

Pringles Tasting

Tuesday, February 17, 7-7:45 pm

Grades 6-12. Get ready for a flavorful, crunchy challenge! Participants will sample a variety of Pringles flavors from classic to weird and wild and try to guess each flavor using only their taste buds. Please be cautious of allergen info of products. RR

Teen Take & Makes

Finals Week De-Stress Kit

Kits available beginning Monday, December 15 at 3 pm
Grades 9-12. Finals week is tough, so stop by the Teen Area all week long after school and pick up a de-stress kit filled with small study essentials to help you relax, recharge, and refocus. Available while supplies last.

Blind Date with a Puzzle Kit

Kits available beginning Saturday, February 14 at 9 am
Grades 9-12. Take a chance on a surprise puzzle this Valentine's Day! Stop by the Teen Area and choose a wrapped puzzle based only on a few clues, no image, no title. What will it be? Only one way to find out! Available while supplies last. One puzzle per teen.

Elementary

Child(ren) can independently attend without a caregiver to build confidence.

RR = registration required

Kids' Monday Game Night

Grades 2-3: December 1, January 5, February 2

Grades 4-5: December 15, January 19, February 16

6:30-7:30 pm

Make friends and discover new screen-free games! *RR*

LEGO Club

Sundays, December 7, February 8, 2-3:15 pm

Grades 1-5. Create and build your own LEGO design that we'll display in the Library! Sign up the child, not the adult for each session. *RR*

Dungeons and Dragons: Character Workshop

Monday, December 8, 6:30-7:30 pm

Grades 4-5. Create your very own Dungeons and Dragons character! Be prepared to do some creative thinking, reading, and math using copies of our players handbook. Younger attendees may need an adult to attend if they need reading/math support. You'll take your character home, along with a folder full of D&D info, and your very own set of dice! *RR*

Robotics Basics

Monday, December 8, 6:30-8:30 pm

Grades 3-5. Intro to our LEGO SPIKE Prime robots. This class is the prerequisite for the Robotics Workshops. *RR*

STEAMworks: Reindeer Rescue Mission!

Tuesday, December 9, 5-6 pm

Grades 3-5. Ren the Reindeer is stranded on the Southern Island after missing his ride home to the North Pole. Can you build a boat or raft using common materials to rescue Ren the Reindeer and bring him home? *RR*

Magic the Gathering

Tuesday, December 16, 6-7 pm

Grades 4-5. Are you an experienced MTG player? Great! Never played before? We'll teach you! *RR*

Andertoons: Winter Wildlife

Saturday, December 27, 1-2 pm

Grades K-5. Kids will learn to draw animals that like it cold! Arctic foxes, polar bears, snow monkeys, and the ruffed grouse! Yes, you read that right—ruffed grouse! The grouse that's actually ruffed! Do not miss it! (Again, ruffed grouse!) *RR*

Book Buddies Book Club

Monday, December 29, 6:30-7:30 pm

Grades 1-4. Introduce newly independent readers to a fun book series! We'll read *Dungeon Runners Level 1: Hero Trial* by Kieran Larwood this time around. Participants will be able to checkout a copy of the book beginning December 1, and then attend the program with fun crafts and activities at the end of the month! *RR*



Crystal Snowflake Magic @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Thursday, January 8 at 10 am

Grades K-5. You'll have to see it to believe it! Use a simple solution to grow a crystal snowflake. *RR*

Dungeons & Dragons

Monday, January 12, 6:30-8:30 pm

Grades 4-5. Does your child have a big imagination? Work well with others? Enjoy reading and logical thinking? Join in on this popular fantasy role-playing game, no experience necessary! In this two hour session players will get the feel for the game, as well as learn the basic rules. The game itself will be tailored to the age range of 4th and 5th graders. *RR*

Build-A-Robot

Sunday, January 18, 1:30-4 pm

Grades 3-5. Build one of the LEGO EV3 robot designs and then download the program to activate it. *RR*

Green Over Screens: Snowflake Yarn Weaves

Wednesday, January 21, 4:30-5:30 pm

Grades K-1. Join us as we turn cardboard and yarn into beautiful snowflakes! *RR*

We Love Graphic Novels Book Club

Monday, January 26, 6:30-7:15 pm

Grades 3-5. Talk about your favorite graphic novels, discover new ones, meet friends, and have snacks! *RR*

Robotics Workshop

Mondays, January 26, February 23, 6:30-8:30 pm
Grades 3-5. Develop your skills with our LEGO SPIKE Prime robots. You must have attended the Robotics Basics class to attend this workshop. *RR*

Full STEAM Ahead: Igloo Architects to the Rescue!

Tuesday, January 27, 5-6 pm
Grades K-2. Can you build an igloo for Penguin and his friends before the snow storm reaches Antarctica? Young architects will use simple materials to build an igloo for Penguin and his friends. *RR*

Football Field Goal and Launcher Challenge

Saturday, February 7, 2-3 pm
Grades 3-5. On three! Hut! Hut! Hike! Can you build and engineer a football field goal post and launcher in time for Super Bowl LX? *RR*

Green Over Screens: Sew Simple! Axolotls with Heart @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Friday February 13 at 9 am
Grades 2-3. This little kit is a sewing confidence builder and these axolotls are all heart! *Please register for one kit only.* *RR*

Green Over Screens: Tic Tac Cocoa!

Wednesday, February 11, 4:30-5:30 pm
Grades 4-5. This painted wood may look like a cup of cocoa, but it's really a game! *RR*

Pringles Tasting

Tuesday, February 17, 6-6:45 pm
Grades 3-5. Get ready for a flavorful, crunchy challenge! Participants will sample a variety of Pringles flavors and try to guess each flavor using only their taste buds. *Please be cautious of allergen info of products.* *RR*

How Will Your Polar Bear Grow? @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Thursday, February 19 at 10 am
Grades 1-5. Observe osmosis at work in this fun experiment using gummy bears! *RR*

Jr. Master Gardener

Monday, February 23, 6:30-7:30 pm
Grades 1-5. Interested in the natural world, and all things that grow in the ground? Come ready to get your hands dirty as we explore the fascinating world of plants. *RR*

MEET SARA OUR NEW YOUTH PROGRAMMER!



Why did you want to take on this new role developing STEAM-based programs for kids?

When I decided to take on this new role, the first thing I thought was, "This is going to be so much fun!" I imagined myself embodying my inner Ms. Frizzle from the *Magic School Bus* series and not just introducing kids to STEAM, but taking them on a journey. I want kids to get excited about science, technology, engineering, the arts and math. I want their experience to be fun and I hope they build positive memories of the programs and what I bring to them.

Can you share any exciting plans or ideas you're introducing? I plan on introducing some programs that involve fun, enjoyable challenges or engaging, interesting problems to solve. These programs will allow kids the freedom to design, innovate, and use creative and critical thinking to achieve a solution. I am excited to see what happens!

What are some of your favorite children's books? *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry is my most favorite book ever! I also love Frog and Toad books and the other books by Arnold Lobel, *Zen Shorts* by Jon J Muth and all the other books with Stillwater, and Dr. Seuss books.

Some of my favorite juvenile chapter books are *Holes* by Louis Sachar, *The Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, and *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

“

This is going to be so much fun!

”

Family

For parents, caregivers, guardians, and mentors to accompany a child(ren). RR = registration required

Family Game Night

Tuesdays, December 2, February 3, 6-7:30 pm

Children must be school age or older. Join others to play board games. Bring a game or choose from our selection. Register under one name with number in your group. RR

Family LEGO CLUB

Sunday, January 4, 2-3 pm

Work together as a family to create and build a LEGO design that we'll display in the Library! RR

Miss Jamie's Farm: A Fun & Educational Music Show

Saturday, January 24, 10-10:45 am

Best for ages 3-7 but all children will enjoy this interactive musical show. Sing, dance, laugh, and learn about life down on the farm with Miss Jamie and her puppet animal friends! RR

Miss Jill's Vintage Storytime

Tuesday, February 10, 6:30-7:15 pm

Grade school children and adults. Miss Jill has vintage children's books that you might not hear elsewhere. Blankets, pillows, and PJ's encouraged! Registration preferred, but walk-ins welcome.

All Creatures Great and Small: Randall Oaks Zoo

Saturday, February 28, 1-2 pm

All ages. Learn and meet animals from a friendly opossum and a feisty ferret to a Madagascan hissing cockroach! Perfect for those looking to experience multiple animals from the animal kingdom. RR



Miss Jamie

DROP IN STORY TIMES

Weekly Storytime

Mondays, 10:30 am

December 1, 8, 15

January 5, 12, 26

February 2, 9, 23

Ages 0-6 with an adult. Stories, music, and fun!
Drop in.

Evening Storytime

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm

December 3, 10, 17

January 7, 28

February 4, 18, 25

Ages 0-6 with an adult. Stories, music, and fun!
Drop in.



Saturday Storytime

10:30-11 am

December 13

January 10

February 14

Ages 0-6 with an adult. Stories, music, and fun!
Drop in.

Hora de Cuentos en Español / Spanish Storytime

Miércoles 14 de enero del, 6-6:30 pm

Edades 0-6 con un adulto. Vamos a leer historias, cantar canciones, y tener otras actividades en inglés y español. Entrada libre.

Wednesday, January 14, 6-6:30 pm

Ages 0-6 with an adult. We'll read stories, sing songs, and have other activities in both English and Spanish. Drop-in.

Early Childhood

For adult caregiver(s) to accompany a child(ren).
RR = registration required

Stories and Seasons

Tuesdays, December 2, January 27, February 17
10:30-11 am

Ages 2-5 with an adult. Stories and a charming craft with a focus on nature to fit right in with the seasons! **RR**

Green Over Screens: Gingerbread Mobiles

Thursday, December 11, 10:30-11:30 am

Ages 3-6 with an adult. Join us as we celebrate winter with paper “gingerbread” mobiles. **RR**

Green over Screens: Cone Tree Hats

Thursday December 18, 10:30-11:30 am

Ages 3-6 with an adult. Let's get excited for the holidays with hats that look like pine trees! **RR**



The Benefits of Signing with Your Baby

An interview with presenter Katy Roth

Tell us a little bit about your background and why you began teaching ASL to children and their caregivers.

My love for ASL (American Sign Language) stems all the way back to when I was in first grade. There was a boy in class who was deaf and had a sign language interpreter. I listened to my teacher but watched the sign language interpreter bring the words to life. When I went to college, I majored in Elementary Education and minored in Communicative Disorders. Now, I am the mother of a 3-year-old, and began signing with him when he was 4 months old.

What are the benefits of babies learning sign language? Offering a beautiful visual language to babies is one of the easiest ways to help everyone communicate more effectively. Babies can begin signing back to you between 5-12 months of age. This means babies are able to communicate well before they're verbally capable!

Kick-Start Art: L'il Paper Wreaths

Monday, December 22, 10:30-11:30 am

Ages 3-6 with an adult. Kick start the winter holiday break with little paper wreaths! **RR**

Green over Screens: Confetti Conifers @Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Friday, January 16 at 9 am

Ages 3-6 with an adult. C is for conifer, my kind of tree! A bit of paper confetti and cardboard makes this charming winter tree. Please register for one kit per family. **RR**

Daniel Tiger Potty Party

Monday, January 19, 10:30-11:15 am

Ages 18 months-3 years with an adult. Is your little one in the middle of potty training, ready to start, or just curious? Join us for a fun Daniel Tiger storytime all about the potty! We'll read books, sing songs, dance, and have a photo op. Each participant will leave with a potty chart and stickers. Please register each child attending. **RR**

In fact, when you introduce sign language at an early age, it unlocks the language area of the brain thereby expanding a child's future language capabilities and vocabulary, and increases comprehension, eye contact, and their ability to decode a word on the page once they

become a reader. Also, children who learn multiple languages have stronger working memories.

What is one thing that caregivers could do right now to help them communicate better with their little one? Learn five words in sign language

(perhaps MILK, MORE, FINISHED, MOM, DAD). Every time you say these words aloud, also sign them. If you see these words in a book you're reading to your little one, use your child's face and body-space to demonstrate the sign (e.g. to show MOM, tap your open 5 hand's thumb to their chin). Perhaps after 1-2 weeks, you'll be ready to add 5 more new signs to your daily routines! If you raise the bar (a little at a time), children will reach for it!

Cary Area Public Library

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*Board meetings are the second
Thursday of the month at 7 pm
and are open to the public.*

Interim Executive Director

Becky Oberhauser

Welcoming all to connect and explore—checkout the possibilities!

Library Lovers Expedition

February 1-March 31, 2026

Did you know that you can use your library card at any public library in the state of Illinois? Get to know other libraries in our area during the Expedition between February 1-March 31. Register at the CAPL Service Center to start. Check in at 12 libraries to be entered in a prize drawing of your choice. Check in at all 15 libraries to be entered in the Grand Prize drawing. Collect key tags and participate in fun activities along your journey. Visit our website to see the list of participating libraries: caryarealibrary.org/liblovers

