



Cary Area Public Library

Shelf Life

Spring 2026

Meet Our New Director
Expanded Adult New Book Section
Seed Library
Bond Over Books
Used Book Sale

Pictured: Lilliput zinnia

Event Registration

View complete event descriptions on our online Events Calendar. Registration begins Thursday, February 19 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)



Spring meeting dates: Thursdays, March 5, April 2, and May 7, from 7-8 pm at the Library.

FOCAL Scholarship

This spring, the Friends of the Cary Area Library will again award two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors who live within the CAPL District. Requirements can be found on the application, which is available now online (caryarealibrary.org/focal) or in the Library. Application deadline is Monday, April 27.

Spring Used Book Sale details are on the back page!

ICYMI: Puzzle Exchange

FOCAL hosts a year-round puzzle exchange next to the FOCAL Point book cart (which houses free books, movies, and music). A donation box is there if you'd like to help support FOCAL and CAPL in between used book sales.

FOCAL Membership

New FOCAL members are always welcome (must be 18+, 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

April 3	Closed 9-1, Open 1-5
April 5	Easter
May 10	Mother's Day
May 24-25	Memorial Day

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

March-May 2026

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

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A letter from our new Executive Director

Ashley Huffines

“As Executive Director, my goal is to support and strengthen the excellent work already being done while also listening carefully to your ideas and needs.”

My name is Ashley Huffines and I'm honored to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of the Cary Area Public Library.

Having completed my first month in this role, I want to take a moment to share my gratitude and reflect on what has already been an inspiring beginning. Over the past several weeks, I've had the opportunity to meet with our dedicated staff, volunteers, and community partners. I'm impressed by the passion and care that go into making this Library a welcoming and meaningful space for everyone. It is clear that this Library is more than a building and is a cornerstone



of our community. As Executive Director, my goal is to support and strengthen the excellent work already being done while also listening carefully to your ideas and needs. I am committed to ensuring that our library continues to serve all members of our community for another 75 years.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received during my first month. I look forward to getting to know more of you in the weeks, months and years ahead as we work together to shape a strong, vibrant future for the Cary Area Public Library.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ashley Huffines".



Our CAPL 75th anniversary celebrations continue this spring. Our year-long Diamond Reading Challenge has begun and you'll notice some events throughout this newsletter tie in the anniversary: the Peeps Diorama Contest and a Nature Journaling class for children among them. We'll also be hanging a CAPL history timeline + photo display along our back wall in March. Be sure to stop in and see it! Visit caryarealibrary.org/75years for details.

Library Updates

We've **expanded the fiction Adult New Book Area** into the nook. Books won't be as tight as they have been these last few years, there is more room for books to face out, and the area is a little larger to allow more room for browsing.



Palace Project Digital Collection

The Palace Project app has replaced the discontinued Boundless app after their parent company, Baker & Taylor, abruptly closed this past fall. The same collection on a new platform!

On the Palace Project app, access thousands of free books with your CAPL card. Read or listen to titles for all ages in an easy-to-use interface. We know that the Libby app is popular, but don't sleep on this service, which can supplement your access to ematerials.

New Catalog Interface Coming this Spring

Our catalog consortium with 30+ other libraries will be implementing a new catalog interface this spring, which is tentatively scheduled to go live Tuesday, May 19.

This will mean changes to some features like your account, searching the catalog, and placing holds. Stay tuned for more information as the date approaches on our website and in the summer newsletter.

Coming Soon: Learning Garden

We will be installing a Learning Garden in our "backyard." We'll conduct events and classes in and around it, as well as opening it up for volunteer opportunities and building a community of growers! More details to come in our summer newsletter.



Seed Library

Opens March 9 • caryarealibrary.org/seedlibrary

What it is

We make a wide variety of seeds available to CAPL cardholders for free to grow at home. Growing helps increase biodiversity in our area, increases health benefits to our patrons, and allows you to save money in the process.

How it works

Visit our website to view our 2026 seed catalog in early March. Each household may request up to 10 non-duplicate seed packets from a variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Each seed type has a corresponding number, so when placing your order, you can easily indicate your choices by number instead of by name. Please note that the links in the seed catalog go to outside sources and are for growing reference only—you do not place an order through those sites for our seeds. Duplicate orders from households will not be honored.

Beginning Monday, March 9 at 9 am, the order form will open online, and be available at the Service Center. Once you've placed your order, we'll pack it within four business days and notify you when it is ready for pickup (emails will come from the Seed

Library so be sure to watch your junk folder!) We'll hold your order for four days. On Friday, May 29, the order form will close. Any remaining seed packets will be available in the Library for cardholders to grab beginning Monday, June 8. Visit our website for all important information about ordering: caryarealibrary.org/seedlibrary

Learn more

Find helpful resources on our website for your gardening adventure, whether you're a beginner or experienced grower. Also, sign up for our Growers e-newsletter which will give you tips and best practices throughout the important stages of the growing season.

The first 75 people who place a Seed Library order will receive an extra seed packet to celebrate our 75th anniversary!



Black Beauty eggplant

Adults

RR = registration required

Smart Tax Strategies for a Secure Retirement

Wednesday, March 4, 7-8 pm

Learn how taxes change when you retire, how Social Security benefits are taxed, and ways to lower your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). We'll also cover topics like healthcare costs, the tax impact of losing a spouse, and strategies for managing taxable income. Discover how Roth IRA conversions, charitable giving, and investment gains and losses can benefit you. [RR](#)

The Librarians: A Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion

Offsite at McHenry County College Leucht Auditorium
Thursday, March 5, 6:30-8:30 pm

View the documentary *The Librarians* and participate afterwards in a panel discussion led by former librarians and current anti-censorship advocates Kelly Jensen and Kristin Pekoll. This event is brought to you by the McHenry County Libraries - Let's All Read Together. [RR](#)

Women for All Seasons: Six Chicagoans Who Changed the World

Wednesday, March 11, 7-8 pm

Historian Clarence Goodman tells the fascinating stories of six Chicago women who changed and continue to change the world. The stories of Agent Kate Warne, Miss Ida B. Wells, Capt. Frances Glessner Lee, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Mother Dolores Hart, and Dr. Amy Lehman are transcendent and inspiring in scope and nature. [RR](#)

Learn to Play Mahjong

Saturdays, March 14, 21 and 28, 1-3 pm

Learn to play Mahjong, a game of skill and luck. Join Susan Cole for three sessions and enjoy the sound of tiles as you play. Beginners welcome! [RR](#)



University of Illinois Extension Presents: Composting

Wednesday, March 18, 7-8 pm

Explore composting with Master Gardeners Suzie Morrissey and Cathy Klink. Topics include the basics of composting (including how's it's made), its benefits, the options for equipment to use, and the considerations to make when deciding to try composting at home. [RR](#)

Solar-Powered LED Library Craft

Saturday, March 21, 10-11:30 am

Description: Join us in making your own solar-powered library to celebrate our 75th anniversary this year! You'll get the chance to decorate and put together your own miniature building. [RR](#)

CCCS of Illinois Presents Personal Bankruptcy

Wednesday, March 25, 7-8 pm

Delve into the ins and outs of personal bankruptcy, including the overall process and requirements for the different types, Chapter 7 and Chapter 13. The pros and cons of filing for bankruptcy will also be addressed. [RR](#)

Professor Moptop Presents Siblings in Rock

Wednesday, April 1, 7-8 pm

Professor Moptop, music historian Gregory Alexander, returns to discuss bands with at least one pair of siblings and the highs and lows that come with being in a family band. We'll watch and listen to music from the Jackson 5, The Beach Boys, The Everly Brothers, The Carpenters, The Kinks, and many more. [RR](#)

Cary's Prairie Jewels presented by the Cary Prairie Stewards

Thursday, April 2, 6:30-8 pm

The three gravel hill prairies owned by the Cary Park District—Sands Main Street Prairie, Hillside Prairie, and Water Tower Prairie—represent rare natural treasures within our region. Our speakers will discuss the human and natural history of these prairies, their rare plants, and the need for active volunteer participation. Opportunities to participate in this important work will be offered, and all are welcome to participate! [RR](#)

CCCS of Illinois Presents The Real Costs of Home Ownership

Wednesday, April 8, 7-8 pm

Join us for a session designed to help participants accurately assess costs and budget impact of homeownership. [RR](#)

AARP Presents Smart Driver Course

Thursday and Friday, April 9 & April 10, 10 am-2 pm

For motorists aged 50+. Registration and attendance both days is required. Bring your driver's license, your AARP card (if you're a member), and cash or a check payable to AARP on the first day. \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. [RR](#)

U of I Extension Presents: Interior Plants by Design

Wednesday, April 22, 7-8 pm

Master Gardner Dana Garretson will provide a who, what, where, why, when, and how of using plants in our homes. Includes plant recommendations for light levels, moisture requirements, and design type. [RR](#)

National Library Week Author Panel

Thursday, April 23, 7-8 pm

Offsite at McHenry County College Leucht Auditorium
Celebrate National Library Week by enjoying a panel of authors speaking about their craft. Christina Clancy, Sonali Dev, Nancy Johnson, Sara Maurer, and Rachel Swearingen will discuss their relationship with writing and reading. Book sales and signing will be available following courtesy of Read Between the Lynes Book Store. This event is brought to you in participation with McHenry County Libraries - Let's All Read Together. [RR](#)

Monarchs on Milkweed

Wednesday, April 29, 7-8 pm

The decline of the Monarch butterfly became apparent in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Learn about this amazing migrator who travels over 1,000 miles yearly to overwinter in Mexico. [RR](#)

An Evening with Elizaberth Berg and Jane Hamilton

Tuesday, May 12, 7-8 pm

Offsite at McHenry County College Leucht Auditorium
Join us in conversation with best-selling authors Elizabeth Berg and Jane Hamilton. Book sales and signing will be available following courtesy of Read Between the Lynes Book Store. This event is brought to you in participation with McHenry County Libraries United. [RR](#)



Susan Friedland

From Chicago to Chincoteague: The True Story of Marguerite Henry and Her Celebrity Pony Misty

Wednesday, May 13, 7-8 pm

Local author and horsewoman Susan Friedland will share the story behind her book *Marguerite, Misty and Me*. Over the course of two years and more than 8,000 miles of travel, Friedland went in search of the woman behind the iconic books. Learn about the lesser-known side of Marguerite Henry and why her stories continue to resonate. Includes a Q&A session. Susan will have signed copies of her book available for purchase. [RR](#)

3D Printing Pens

Saturday, May 16, 10-11:30 am

Choose from a variety of spring- and summer-themed designs to create 3D art. [RR](#)

Medicare 101

Wednesday, May 20, 7-8 pm

Join Susan Grossinger, a Senior Health Insurance Program counselor, to learn how to become a smart consumer, whether you are new to Medicare or not. [RR](#)

Stay Steady: A Fall Prevention Workshop

Wednesday, May 27, 7-8 pm

Led by Physical Therapist and VeDA Ambassador Dana Tress, this class is designed to help you improve balance, strength, and confidence to reduce your risk of falls. This interactive session includes demonstrations, take-home resources, and time for Q&A. [RR](#)



Christina Clancy, Sonali Dev, Nancy Johnson, Sara Maurer, Rachel Swearingen



Elizabeth Berg, Jane Hamilton

DISCUSSIONS & GROUPS

Books on Tap @ Cary Ale House

Tuesdays, March 17, April 21, May 19, 7-8:30 pm
Socialize and discuss the book with others in their 20s-30s. Email Jessica at jking@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

March 25: *The Dragon from Chicago* by Pamela D. Toler

April 22: *Dinner with King Tut* by Sam Kean

May 27: *Daughters of Shandong* by Eve J. Chung

Turning Pages Together • Thursdays, 7-8 pm

March 26: *Darling Girls* by Sally Hepworth

April 30: *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali

May 28: *Slaughterhouse-Five* by Kurt Vonnegut

2026 Great Decisions

Thursdays, March 12, April 9, May 7, 6:30-8 pm

Engage in lively discussion of foreign policy issues hosted by Adult Services Manager, Joel Sawyer. 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, April 16, 6:30-8:30 pm

Adults and teens 16+. Join us at an off-site location to be announced for discussion of *Death in the City of Light : the Serial killer of Nazi-occupied Paris* by David King. [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 May meeting)

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

ONLINE EVENTS

Lost Treasures of the Titanic

Monday, April 13, 7-8:30 pm

Zoom. For over a century, the world has been intrigued by the story of the Titanic. When tragedy struck on April 14, 1912, in addition to the incredible loss of life, a nearly incalculable amount of goods plummeted into the ocean, never to be seen again. This lecture tells the stories of some of the more interesting and valuable treasures lost on that fateful night. [RR](#)

From Ferris to the Frontlines

Wednesday, April 15, 7-8 pm

Zoom. The Art Institute of Chicago and Grant Park are not just beloved city landmarks—they've also played unforgettable roles on the big screen. In this hour-long talk led by film scholar Kelli Marshall, explore how both public spaces have been represented in film, sometimes as places of whimsy, sometimes as sites of unrest. [RR](#)

Walking Chicago's Coast

Tuesday, April 21, 7-8 pm

Celebrate Earth Month and National Parks Week with award-winning writer Michael McColly as he recounts his 63-mile walk from Rogers Park to Indiana Dunes National Park, sharing the experiences, history, and insights gathered along Chicago's ever-changing shoreline. Through vivid storytelling and stunning photography, he explores the beauty of Lake Michigan, the city's evolving landscape, and the environmental challenges facing our region. *This event is made possible through a collaboration between Northern Illinois public libraries.* [RR](#)

Board Game Arena Virtual Game Night

Monday, May 4, 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](#)

Financial Fitness Series

Budgeting & Saving with Ryan Decker

Thursday, April 9, 7-8:30 pm

Zoom. Dr. Ryan Decker, CFP, breaks down the basics of personal finance: budgeting and introductory saving and investment strategies. Learn which factors to consider for deciding when, where, and how to save, invest, or aggressively tackle debt. [RR](#)

Buying a Home: The Basics with Open Communities

Monday, April 13, 7-8:30 pm

Zoom. Owning a home takes a lot of time, money, and energy. This course covers what a lender looks for in a loan application, credit basics, down payments, and the players in the home buying process. [RR](#)

Retirement Reality with Jill Schlesinger

Tuesday, April 21, 7-8:30 pm

Zoom. CBS News Business Analyst Jill Schlesinger, CFP, will join us to walk through the specific steps necessary to get you where you want to go, whether you are just starting off in your career or ready to wind down. [RR](#)

Classroom Kitchen

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](#)

Thai Harmony

Wednesday, March 11, 6:30-8 pm

Discover the harmony of sweet, salty, sour, and spicy that defines Thai cuisine. We'll create dishes like Thai Basil Chicken with Coconut-Lime Jasmine Rice and finish with a refreshing Mango Sticky Rice for dessert.

Pasta e Dolce

Wednesday, April 8, 6:30-8 pm

Experience the art of handmade pasta. We'll create Lemon Ricotta Ravioli with Spring Pea Sauce and Lemon Mascarpone Cups.

French Flavors for Spring

Wednesday, May 6, 6:30-8 pm

Take a culinary journey to the Mediterranean. Each dish will be packed with fresh herbs, bold spices, and zesty ingredients that will transport your taste buds.

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](#)

Beyond the Page with Percival Everett

Thursday, March 19, 7-8 pm

Tune in for our conversation with Percival Everett to get a glimpse beyond the page. His most recent novel, *James*, earned both the Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the National Book Award, and his 2001 novel *Erasure* inspired the film *American Fiction*, which received the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay in 2024.

Cristina Henríquez: Voice, Culture, and Human Connection

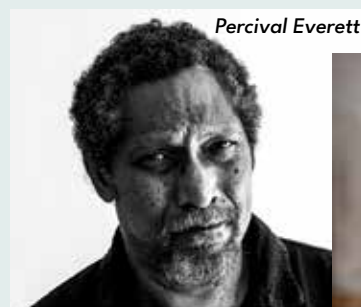
Thursday, April 16, 7-8 pm

Join critically acclaimed, bestselling author, Cristina Henríquez, for a compelling conversation about her work. Henríquez's newest book, *The Great Divide*, is a moving exploration of the people who lived, loved, and labored during the construction of the Panama Canal.

Babel-On with R.F. Kuang

Tuesday, May 19, 7-8 pm

Award-winning author of *Yellowface* and *Babel*, R.F. Kuang's genre-bending fiction broaches ordinarily serious topics from a satirical and fantastical perspective. Her most recent novel, *Katabasis*, follows two graduate students as they descend into hell after the death of their professor.



Percival Everett



R.F. Kuang



Cristina Henríquez

Multi-Age

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

Create your own Peeps world in a shoe box and enter solo or as a group in a category: Family, Youth, Teen, and Adult. This year, in celebration of our 75th anniversary, the dioramas should be book- or movie/show-inspired to showcase the stories you can find in the Library. Dioramas will be displayed and the best entries in each age category will win Peep prizes. Entry forms and rules can be picked up at the Service Center or found on our website: caryarealibrary.org/contest

12th Annual Peeps Diorama Contest

Drop off: March 14-22

Voting: March 23-April 2

Winners announced: April 3

Pickup dioramas: April 3-6



2025 Family winner: "Follow the Yellow Peep Road" by Reid and Jackie C.

Club de Recién Llegados / Newcomer Club

Lunes 9 de marzo y 11 de mayo, 6-7 pm

La Michoacana Twister

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 y a adaptarse a su nuevo ambiente. Nos reuniremos en La Michoacana Twister en Cary y comenzaremos con un cuento, seguido de juegos de mesa y rifas. No se requiere inscripción.

Mondays, March 9 and May 11, 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 and adjust to their new environment. We'll meet at La Michoacana Twister in Cary and kick off with storytime, followed by board games and raffles. Drop in, no registration required.

Maker Mondays Drop-In

March 16, 30, April 6, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 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.

Trivia Night: Fools and Oddities

Thursday, March 19, 7-8:30 pm

Ages 14+. Compete in teams of up to four to see who has the deepest, strangest knowledge about a variety of topics. Bonus points for dressing curiously! Register under one name and enter your total team number. [RR](#)

Craft Swap

Saturday, April 25, 9 am-12 pm

Donate clean, usable and good quality craft supplies: fabric, thread, beads, rubber stamps, patterns, stencils, needles, etc. But please no books or magazines! Everyone is then welcome to explore the supplies and take home items of your choice (you don't need to donate in order to "shop"). *Donation drop-off: Thursday, April 23, 9 am-8 pm and Friday, April 24, 9 am-4 pm. Donations will not be accepted on the Swap Date, April 25.*

Trivia Night: Springtime Face Off

Thursday, May 21, 7-8:30 pm

Ages 14+. Compete in teams of up to four by correctly answering questions to determine who is the face of trivia success! Bonus points for players dressed for spring, rainstorms, or to do your best spring cleaning. Register under one name and enter your total team number. [RR](#)

Teens

RR = registration required

Scholarship Opportunity

This spring, the Friends of the Cary Area Library will award two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors who live within the CAPL District. Requirements can be found on the application, which is available now online (caryarealibrary.org/focal) or in the Library. Application deadline is Monday, April 27.

Teen Volunteer Board

Tuesdays, March 10, May 12, 7-8 pm

Tuesday, April 14, 5:30-6:30 pm

Grades 6-12. Join this fun service club to help with CAPL projects and earn volunteer hours. During the April session we will assist FOCAL with book sale setup. RR

Limitless Possibilities

Tuesday, March 17, 7-8:30 pm

Grades 6-12. All skill levels are invited to create a work of art with limitless possibilities. Artists will be provided painting supplies to work on their canvas. RR

Dungeons & Dragons

Saturdays March 21, April 18, May 16, 1-4 pm

Zoom; grades 6-12. New and returning players welcome for this fantasy role-playing game. Characters will be provided for you. Come and help your group succeed! RR

Robotics Basics

Monday, March 23, 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 Gaming

Tuesdays, March 24, April 28, May 26, 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.

Robotics Workshop

Mondays: March 30, May 11 @ 6:30-8:30 pm

Grades 6-12. Develop your skills with our LEGO SPIKE Prime robots. You must have attended the Robotics Basics class to attend this workshop. RR

Jelly Belly Taste Test

Tuesday, March 31, 7:30-8 pm

Grades 6-12. Try over 20 different flavors of jelly beans. See if you can correctly identify each flavor and we'll find out who is the tasting champion! All participants will receive a fun jelly bean bookmark. Please be aware that Jelly Belly's may contain food allergens. RR

Perler Beads Tic-Tac-Toe

Tuesday, April 21, 7-8 pm

Grades 6-12. Design and create the classic and childhood favorite game of tic-tac-toe using perler beads. RR

Half Day Hangout

Friday, April 24, 11:30 am-2:30 pm

Wednesday, May 6, 11:30 am-2:30 pm

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

Finals Week De-Stress Kit

Kits available beginning Wednesday, May 13 at 3 pm

Grades 9-12. 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. If you can't make it to the Library, pick up a Kit at the Cary-Grove High School Library starting Thursday, May 14 during the school day. Available while supplies last.

Build-A-Robot

Sunday, May 17, 1:30-4 pm

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

Tote Bag Painting

Tuesday, May 19, 7-8:30 pm

Grades 6-12. Design custom artwork on a fabric tote bag. Perfect to carry books for summer reading or to travel with you on your summer adventures. RR

Summer Volunteer application opens March 26!

Going into grades 9-12 • teens.caryarealibrary.org

Elementary

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

RR = registration required

Kids' Monday Game Night

Grades 2-3: March 2, April 6, May 4

Grades 4-5: April 20, May 18

6:30-7:30 pm

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

75 Minutes of STEAM Activities

Saturday, March 7, 2-3:15 pm

Grades 1-5. This year we are celebrating 75 years of the Cary Area Public Library! During this program, you will have 75 minutes to enjoy several STEAM activities. *RR*

LEGO Club

Sundays, March 8, May 3, 2-3 pm

Grades 1-5. Welcome all LEGO builders! 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*

Green Over Screens: Lucky Shamrock Clay Room Charm @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Friday, March 13 at 9 am

Grades 4-5. Clay, paint and your creativity will make some magic! *RR*

Andertoons: Really Really Weird Sports

Saturday, March 28, 1-2 pm

Grades K-5. You think Pickleball is weird?! Try Cycleball! Sepak Takraw! Bartitsu! And even...prepare yourself... Fierljeppen! And we're drawing them all! *RR*

Robotics Basics

Monday, March 23, 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*

Fun with Bots: Ozobot Racetracks

Tuesday, March 24, 5-6 pm

Grades 3-5. On your mark! Get set! Go! Have fun designing a racetrack for an Ozobot robot.

Magic the Gathering

Tuesday, March 24, 6-7 pm

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

Happy 75th Birthday CAPL @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins, Friday, March 27 at 9 am

Grades K-5. The Cary Area Public Library turns 75 this year and you are going to throw a little party! You will make a mug cake, do a science experiment to blow up a balloon, and make a party popper! *RR*

Dungeons & Dragons: Character Creation Workshop

Monday, March 30, 6-7 pm

Grades 4-5. Create your very own D&D 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*

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Full STEAM Ahead: Will It Sink or Float? A Water Pollution Experiment

Tuesday, April 7, 5-6 pm

Grades K-2. April is Earth Month! Experiment with various objects and liquids (pollutants) to see if they sink or float when in a body of water. You will also learn what you can do to help keep our Earth clean. *RR*

Dungeons & Dragons

Monday, April 13, 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! Players will get the feel for the game, as well as learn the basic rules. The game will be tailored to the age range of 4th and 5th graders. *RR*

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK, MAY 4-9

Grades 1-8. Celebrate children's book week with us! Children will receive a fun bookmark and entry into our booktastic giveaway for every check out during this week!

75 Days of Nature Journaling @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Friday, April 17 at 9 am

Grades K-5. Observing nature is a great way to learn about the natural world around you. You'll make and decorate your own 75-day nature journal to record observations. What will you discover? **RR**

Coding Club

Tuesdays, April 21, May 19, 6-7 pm

Grades 4-8. Explore our coding database Fiero Code! Learn team work, problem solving, and creative thinking all while creating fun playable games and visual stories. Participants will need to create a Fiero Code account (go to caryarealibrary.org and click on Resources > Databases > For students > Fiero Code). Bring your account username and password for the program. **RR**

Green Over Screens: Butterfly Cloud!

Wednesday, April 22, 4:30-5:30 pm

Grades 2-3. Soon we'll see real butterflies, but until then, we can enjoy these paper ones! **RR**

We Love Graphic Novels Book Club

Monday, April 27, 5:30-6:15 pm

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

Invisible Ink

Monday, April 27, 6:30-7:30 pm

Grades 3-5. Did you know that you can make invisible ink messages using baking soda, turmeric, and isopropyl alcohol? Come try out this fun and simple craft! **RR**

STEAMworks: Oil Spill Clean Up Challenge

Tuesday, April 28, 5-6 pm

Grades 3-5. In honor of Earth Month this April, you will learn how to clean up a body of water when there's been an oil spill. You will also learn how to be an advocate for our Earth. **RR**

Green Over Screens: The Amazing Face!

Wednesday, April 29, 4:30- 5:30 pm

Grades K-1. With scissors, glue and your imagination, an egg carton has all you need to make an amazing face! **RR**

May the 4th Be With You! LED Lightsaber @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Friday, May 1 at 9 am

Grades 3-5. Use the force and build a mini LED lightsaber! **RR**

Nature EXPLORERS: Backyard Birds

Tuesday, May 5, 5-6 pm

Grades K-2. Learn about backyard birds, assemble and decorate your own binoculars, and make a feeder. **RR**

Green Over Screens: Rainy Day Stuffie @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Friday, May 8 at 9 am

Grades 4-5. Make a sweet little cloud and some melty crayon raindrops! **RR**

Jr. Master Gardener

Tuesday, May 12, 5:30-6:30 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**

Build-A-Robot

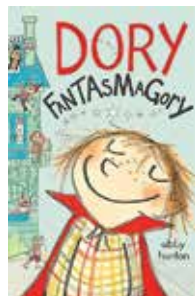
Sunday, May 17, 1:30-4 pm

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

Read with a Dog

Saturday, May 23, 10-11 am

Grades K-5. Sign up for a 15-minute time-slot to read with a certified therapy dog! Choose from a selection of books provided or bring your own favorite. **RR**



Book Buddies Book Club: Dory Fantasmagory by Abby Hanlon

Tuesday, May 26, 6:30-7:15 pm

Grades 1-4. Introduce newly independent readers to a fun book series! Participants will be able to checkout a copy of the book near the first of the month, and then attend the program with fun crafts and activities at the end of the month! **RR**

Family

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

Family Game Night

Tuesday, March 3, 6-7 pm

Grade school children and adults. Join other families, children and caregivers, or mentees and mentors for an evening playing board games. Feel free to bring a game or play one of ours. Snacks will be available. Registration preferred under one name and total group number, but walk-ins welcome.

Miss Jill's Vintage Storytime

Monday, May 11, 6-6:30 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.

Cinco de Mayo Loteria Night

Tuesday, May 5, 6-7 pm

Grade school children and adults. Join us in a celebration of Cinco de Mayo by playing Loteria, a traditional bingo style game from Mexico. All winners will be entered into a raffle for a prize. Register under one name and enter your total group number. **RR**

Bond Over Books

Talk to your child(ren) about what they're reading.

Bonding over books is an excellent way to develop a lasting and meaningful relationship with the children in your life. Bond over favorites from your childhood; identify shared experiences between you, the child, and the book characters; help to open up discussion about tough topics; and just understand what they're reading and taking away from those books. It's good for you, it's good for them.

In early childhood, talking with your children about what they're reading is more about helping them learn to read and get ready to begin school. As children start to read on their own, you can keep the conversation going by asking questions that are open-ended, such as "What did you like and dislike about the book?" Then, as they become even more independent as tweens and teens, you can expand the discussions with deeper questions, like "What are the overarching themes of this book?"

Don't worry—we've prepared prompts for parents/caregivers for this very reason. Find them as a handout in the Children's Area or online at **kids.caryarealibrary.org/parentprompts**

Early Childhood

For adult caregiver(s) to accompany a child(ren).

RR = registration required

Sign with Katy

Saturdays, March 7, April 25, May 16, 9:15-10 am

Ages 0-3 with an adult. Learn basic ASL vocabulary with your little one in each different session. ASL is a great way for babies to communicate their wants and needs with caregivers before gaining the ability to speak. **RR**

Green Over Screens: Springy Shamrock Wreath @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Friday, March 13 at 9 am

Ages 3-6 with adult help. Shamrocks and flowers to welcome spring! **RR**

Kick-Start Art! Cherry Blossom Lanterns

Monday, March 23, 10:30-11:30 am

Ages 3-6 with an adult. Kick start spring break with these sweet little lanterns! **RR**

Stories & Seasons

Tuesdays, March 24, April 21, May 19, 10:30-11 am

Ages 2-6 with an adult. Sweet stories and a charming craft with a focus on nature to fit right in with the seasons! Please register up to two children per family. **RR**

Green Over Screens: Ladybug Suncatchers

Thursday, April 9, 10:30-11:30 am

Ages 3-6 with an adult. These cute and fun garden helpers will brighten up any window! **RR**

Green over Screens: Bubble Wrap Beehive @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Friday, May 15 at 9 am

Ages 3-6 with adult help. Give bubble wrap something else to do, like helping you make a fun beehive! **RR**



DROP IN STORY TIMES

Weekly Storytime and Stay & Play

Mondays, 10:30 am

March 2, 9, 30

April 6 (outside, weather permitting), 27

May 4, 11, 18

Ages 0-6 with an adult. Stories, music, and fun! Hang out after Storytime to play! We have a selection of educational toys that will help with motor skills, sharing, and imaginative play. Drop in.

Evening Storytime

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm

March 18, 25

April 1

May 6, 20, 27

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



Saturday Storytime

10:30-11 am

March 14

April 11

May 9

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

Hora de Cuentos en Español / Spanish Storytime

Miércoles 8 de abril, 6-6:30 pm

Edades 0-6 con un adulto. Vamos a leer historias, cantar canciones, y tener otras actividades en inglés y español con énfasis en las figuras. Todos son bienvenidos, no importa si inglés o español es su primer idioma. Entrada libre.

Wednesday, April 8, 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 with a focus on shapes. All are welcome, no matter if English or Spanish is your first language. Drop-in.

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Welcoming all to connect and explore—checkout the possibilities!

FOCAL Spring Used Book Sale

Friday, April 17, 1-4 pm

Saturday, April 18, 9 am-4 pm

Sunday, April 19, 1-4 pm

Find bargains on books and AV for all ages at the Friends of the Cary Area Library Spring Used Book Sale. Sunday's bag sale is \$5 per supplied bag. Special pricing for teachers with current ID (except for Bag Sale). Only cash and check accepted!