



Cary Area Public Library

Shelf Life

Fall 2026

Sensory-Friendly Browsing Hour
Fall Used Book Sale
Year in Review
Library Garden Celebration

Event Registration

View complete event descriptions on our online Events Calendar. Registration begins Thursday, August 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, September 3, 7 pm

Thursday, October 1, 7 pm

Thursday, November 5, 7 pm

Fall Used Book Sale, October 16-18 (see full details on the next page!)

FOCAL Membership

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



2026 Scholarship Winners

In the spring, FOCAL awarded two \$500 scholarships to Cary-Grove High School graduates Braden Bogda (pictured at left) and Guadalupe Zamudio. Braden will attend Marquette University to study corporate finance. Guadalupe plans to attend McHenry County College and then Aurora University to become a social worker. Congratulations to them both!

OPEN

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

Second Tuesday of the month is Sensory-Friendly Browsing Hour from 8-9 am

CLOSED

September 6-7 Labor Day
October 2 Closed 9-1, Open 1-5
November 25 Closing at 5 pm
November 26 Thanksgiving

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

September-November 2026

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

New & Notable

Palace Project and Kanopy Updates

The Palace Project has become more convenient for all users with a new web interface. View the catalog, borrow materials, place holds, and read within your web browser on any internet-connected device. Previously, the collection was only accessible through their app.

Additionally, you can now access more content on our free streaming service Kanopy. CAPL cardholders have 8 tickets to use per month. Most films require 2 tickets to watch, some new releases use 4 tickets, and entire seasons of shows can be accessed for 5 tickets. Films will be available to watch for 72 hours after checkout, and shows will have a 7-day window in which to watch the episodes. There is unlimited, ticket-free use of all content on Kanopy Kids.

Sensory-Friendly Browsing Hour

On the second Tuesday of each month, the Library is open from 8-9 am for browsing centered on individuals and families who are neurodiverse or have a disability. This is a welcoming time to explore and select material while there is less foot traffic.

A librarian will be available to answer readers' advisory questions and assist with checkout but other services will be limited (public computers will not be available).



Fall Used Book Sale

Friday, Oct 16, 12-4 pm
Saturday, Oct 17, 9 am-3 pm
Sunday, Oct 18, 1-4 pm

Note new
hours for
Friday and
Saturday!

Find bargains on books and AV for all ages at the Friends of the Cary Area Library Fall Used Book Sale. Sunday's bag sale is **\$7** per supplied bag. Special pricing for teachers with current ID (except for Bag Sale). Only cash and check accepted!

BOOK SALE COUPON!

In honor of CAPL's 75th anniversary,
present this coupon at the 2026
Fall Used Book Sale on October 16
or October 17 to get
75¢ off of a \$5 purchase.

YEAR IN



94,687

In-person visits



145,196

Website visits

Services

- 29,609 Service Center interactions
- 11,279 Drive-up Window interactions
- 169,921 Database usage (sessions/views)
- 8,502 Computer reservations
- 10,418 WiFi sessions
- 3,424 Study Room reservations
- 669 Passport applications accepted
- 174 Homebound patron visits
- 449 Museum passes issued
- 34 Book an Expert sessions



highlights

Reliable sources and information: we've seen a 63% increase in **database usage** over the last year, up from 103,749 the previous fiscal year. Usage comes from sessions, views, and searches dependent on the resource. The increase is most likely due to our expanded offerings from the State of IL. Stay tuned—we will be adding access to NewsBank in the coming months.

Events

642 Events hosted

- 197 Adult events
- 71 Teen events
- 334 Children's events
- 40 Multi-age/family events

12,781 Event attendees



highlights

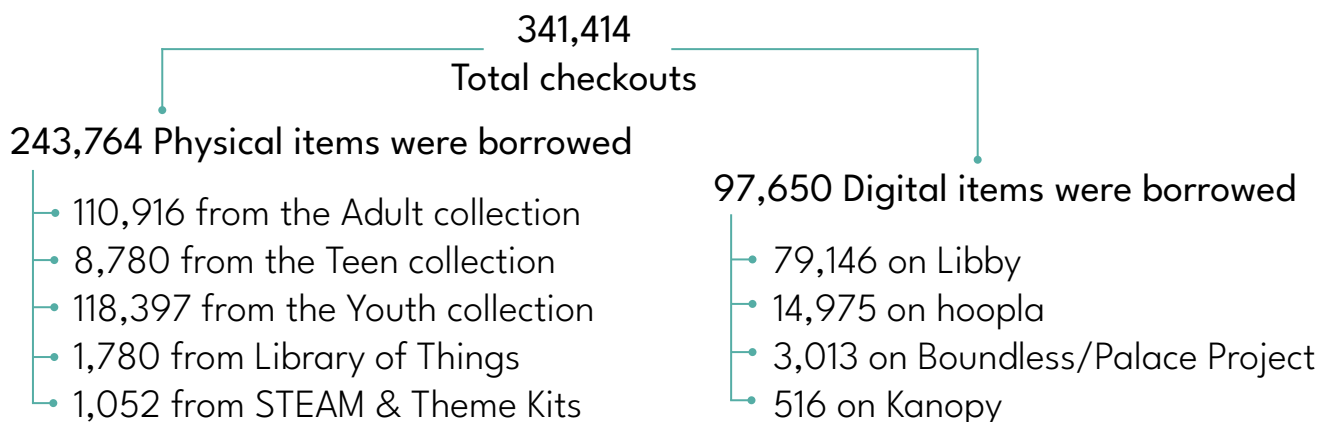
Our new **Learning Garden** was installed in this past spring and debuted in June, hosting a handful of children's events. More programs and volunteer opportunities will be coming in this new, hands-on space.

We kicked off our **75th Anniversary celebrations** with a calendar year-long reading challenge in January, amongst other events and contests.

July 2025-June 2026

REVIEW

Collections



highlights

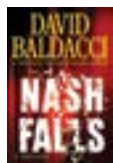
Through **Interlibrary Loan**, we lent 700 items to other area libraries' patrons and borrowed 459 items for our patrons (bins that transport materials between libraries pictured). Two more libraries, Wauconda and Rolling Meadows, will be joining our catalog consortium this fall so there will be even more access to materials.

Digital collection borrowing predictably saw another increase this year. Libby



usage increased by 15%, hoopla usage increased by 4.5%, and Boundless usage increased by 23% even though the collection switched platforms to Palace Project and was inaccessible for a few weeks.

This past fiscal year saw **updates to our app and online catalogs**, with a more convenient and user-friendly experience for both, making it easier to locate the materials you want.



Nash Falls by David Baldacci was the most borrowed adult title.



The wireless hotspots and the 3D Printing Pens (pictured) were the most borrowed Library of Things items.

Adults

RR = registration required

Cultivating Your Inner Calm

Wednesday, September 2, 7-8 pm

This soothing meditation experience blends guided meditation, relaxation techniques, and the restorative tones of a sound bath—helping you unwind, reset, and realign with your inner calm. Please bring a yoga mat, blanket & pillow for your comfort during meditation. [RR](#)

Illinois Road Scholar Julia Albarracin-Green Presents Young and Undocumented: Discovery of the Immigration Status

Wednesday, September 9, 7-8 pm

Albarracin-Green explores the lives and experiences of undocumented immigrant youth in the U.S., specifically those of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. Drawing on firsthand interviews, Albarracin-Green delves into the impacts of the undocumented status on the youth's psychological well-being and the opportunities that are available to them. [RR](#)

BiblioCore 201

Monday, September 14, 7-8 pm

Learn about all the exciting things you can do with our new catalog BiblioCore! Make lists, keep track of the items you've read/watched/listened to, save titles for later, connect with other book lovers, tag and review items to help the community, and so much more! Bring your own device or use one of our laptops. [RR](#)

What Are Your Old Collections of Coins, Currency, and Gold Jewelry Worth?

Wednesday, September 16, 5-8:45 pm

Sign up for a 15-minute time slot with Dave Ekstrom, a lifelong coin collector, a retired school teacher, and a member of the American Numismatic Association, and he'll appraise your items. [RR](#)

Swinging the Lantern: Songs and Stories of the Sea

Wednesday, September 16, 7-8 pm

Join singer/songwriter, and storyteller, Dave Martin, on an exploration of the vast wonder of the world's oceans and Great Lakes. Listeners will be regaled with legendary incidents that have occurred on the high seas near and afar, and become acquainted with colorful characters. [RR](#)



3D Printing Pens

Saturday, September 19, 10-11:30 am

Choose from a variety of autumnal designs to create 3D art with your own hands! [RR](#)

U of I Extension Presents: Moon Gardening

Wednesday, September 23, 7-8 pm

Learn how to create a moon garden—a magical place designed with evening enjoyment in mind—made of night blooms, night fragrance, and luminous plants that reflect the moonlight and attract nocturnal pollinators. [RR](#)

It's Chicago! Chicago History and Architecture

Tuesday, September 29, 7-8 pm

Luecht Auditorium at McHenry County College

Enjoy a panel discussion with architectural historian Carla Bruni, neighborhood and Chicago history specialist Sherman "Dilla" Thomas, American television personality Geoffrey Baer, author Keir Graff, and our moderator, *Chicago Tribune* columnist, Heidi Stevens. The discussion will be followed by a Q&A and book signing, with merchandise available outside the Auditorium. [RR](#)

Social Security

Wednesday, September 30, 7-8 pm

Discover strategies to boost your monthly lifetime benefits. This seminar from The Dala Group offers tailored guidance for singles, married couples, divorced individuals, and widows. [RR](#)

Get Started with Kanopy!

Saturday, October 3, 11 am-12 pm or

Tuesday, October 6, 7-8 pm

Learn about Kanopy, our free movie streaming service available to CAPL cardholders. The short presentation will be followed by a Q&A. Bring your device to set up and access the app during the session. [RR](#)

Halloween Book Page Witches

Monday, October 5, 6:30-8 pm

Turn an old paperback book into a cute Halloween witch! Folding pages will create your witch's body and then you'll create accessories to finish the decoration. [RR](#)

Healing from Trauma: An Intro to EMDR Therapy

Wednesday, October 7, 7-8 pm

This session will introduce Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), an evidence-based therapy that helps people process and recover from distressing life experiences. The presenter will demonstrate a few simple grounding techniques to help regulate stress and feel more centered in everyday life. [RR](#)

Learn to Play Mahjongg

Tuesday, October 20, 6-8:30 pm **and**

Thursday, October 22, 6-8:30 pm

Learn to play Mahjongg, a game of skill and luck. Join Susan Cole for this two-part workshop and enjoy the sound of tiles as you play. Beginners are welcome! Only register if you can attend both sessions. [RR](#)

Bats of McHenry County

Wednesday, October 21, 7-8 pm

Bats are a culturally misunderstood animal. Find out why they're not scary, but instead are fascinating and integral to the environment with Rachel Gustafson from the McHenry County Conservation District. [RR](#)

Cozy Classic Cinema: *Wait Until Dark*

Wednesday, October 28, 6:30-8:30 pm

Unrated. We'll watch *Wait Until Dark*, a 1967 thriller starring Audrey Hepburn and Alan Arkin. A short discussion of the film will follow the viewing. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome.

Scary Movie Night: *Sinners*

Thursday, October 29, 6-8:30 pm

Rated R; ages 17+. Join us for a screening of the Oscar-winning movie *Sinners*. A short discussion of the film will follow the viewing. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome.

RTA Group Transit Education Seminar

Wednesday, November 4, 7-8 pm

Join the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) as we talk about accessible public transportation options that can save money and traveling independently. [RR](#)

Capone's Vault

Wednesday, November 11, 7-8 pm

In 1986, more people watched *The Mystery of Al Capone's Vaults* than the Super Bowl. Coinciding with the 40th anniversary of the broadcast, William Hazelgrove will give us an inside look at the historic televised reveal that would change television forever. [RR](#)

An Introduction to Chinese Medicine

Wednesday, November 18, 7-8 pm

Educator Yvonne Wolf gives a brief background on the ancient practice of Traditional Chinese Medicine. She will relate this ancient study to Western traditions and introduce 5 common roots and herbs that are meaningful and useful. This presentation will be the first step towards a more informed, alternative path to health. [RR](#)

Intro to eBooks & eAudiobooks: The Library's Apps

Saturday, November 21, 10-11:30 am

Learn more about Libby, hoopla, and Palace Project, the ebook/audiobook apps that you have free access to through the Library. Laptops will be provided, but you can bring in your own device. [RR](#)

Create Your Own Thanksgiving Centerpiece

Monday, November 23, 7-8 pm

Create a centerpiece with fall mums, carnations, lilies, solidago, and fall foliage with a candle. Everything is included in the \$30 fee, just bring your garden shears. Payment must be made at the time of registration either via cash at the Service Center or card when registering online. No refunds. [RR](#)



Intro to Chinese Medicine

DISCUSSIONS & GROUPS

2026 Great Decisions

Thursdays, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, 6:30-8 pm

Engage in lively discussion of foreign policy issues hosted by Adult Services Manager, Joel Sawyer. Each session 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](#)

Books on Tap @ Cary Ale House

Tuesdays, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, 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

September 23: *The Great Divide* by Cristina Henriquez

October 28: *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker

Turning Pages Together • Thursdays, 7-8 pm

September 24: *Solito* by Javier Zamora

October 29: *Curious Toys* by Elizabeth Hand

Genealogy Interest Group

Sundays, September 27, October 25, 2-3 pm

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

True Crime Book Club

Thursday, October 15, 6:30-8:30 pm

Offsite (location TBD)

Adults and teens 16+. We'll discuss *American Predator: The Hunt for the Most Meticulous Serial Killer of the 21st Century* by Maureen Callahan. [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.

ONLINE EVENTS

The Iconic Murals of Pilsen, IL

Tuesday, September 22, 7-8 pm

Explore the vibrant murals of Pilsen, the Midwest's mural capital, and their powerful reflection of Mexican history, culture, and struggles. Longtime guide, resident, and co-founder of the Pilsen Public Art Tours, Luis Tubens shares insight into the artwork's political and socio-economic significance. Register through the Zoom link in our calendar. [RR](#)

Weight Loss Medications: What to Know

Monday, September 28, 7-8 pm

In this session, clinical pharmacist Dr. Annette Carmichael will break down the benefits, risks, and realistic expectations of today's most widely used weight-loss drugs, helping attendees make informed decisions about their health. Register through the Zoom link in our calendar. [RR](#)

Understanding the Israel-Palestine Conflict

Wednesday, September 30, 7-8 pm

Through diverse perspectives and an emphasis on empathy, join us for a thoughtful discussion exploring Jewish/Israeli history and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Our presenter is Eduardo Frajman, a graduate of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem who holds a PhD in political science from the University of Maryland, College Park. He teaches politics, philosophy, and humanities at Oakton College, the College of Lake County, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Register through the Zoom link in our calendar. [RR](#)

Making Sense of Menopause

Thursday, October 22, 7-8 pm

This session with clinical pharmacist Erin Carson, coordinator of UIC Retzky College of Pharmacy's Women's Health course, will cover the stages of menopause, symptoms, health considerations, and management options. Attendees will also learn strategies for symptom relief, helpful resources, and when it may be important to seek medical advice. Register through the Zoom link in our calendar. [RR](#)

Board Game Arena Virtual Game Night

Monday, November 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](#)

Swedish Roots in Chicagoland

Thursday, November 5, 7-8 pm

From 1850 to 1930, 1.3 million Swedes left their homes for America. Many settled in Chicago, bringing with them their Swedish culture and traditions to Andersonville. Swedish American Museum Curator, Sarah Hawkinson, will dive into the various factors that prompted rising Swedish immigration, the immigration journey itself, and how Chicago has been shaped in many ways by Swedish immigrants to the Midwest. Register through the Zoom link in our calendar. [RR](#)

Classroom Kitchen

Zoom. Each class is a cook/bake-along in your kitchen as chef Kristyn Slick works in hers. The Zoom link and recipes will be emailed prior to the class. [RR](#)

Chili Nights

Wednesday, September 16, 6:30-8 pm

Warm up your kitchen with a night of chili-making. Learn how to build depth of flavor, customize your chili, and pair it with simple sides. Perfect for meal prep, game days, and everything in between.

Hot Honey

Wednesday, October 14, 6:30-8 pm

Sweet meets heat in this flavor-packed class featuring the combo of hot honey. We'll create a mix of "angelic" sweet dishes and "devilish" spicy favorites that bring just the right amount of kick.

Friendsgiving Feast

Wednesday, November 18, 6:30-8 pm

Host with confidence as we create a menu of shareable, seasonal dishes perfect for your Friendsgiving gathering. From fresh, vibrant sides to a cozy main, and crowd-pleasing dessert, you'll gain recipes and tips to make entertaining feel effortless.

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](#)

Inside the Empire of AI with Karen Hao

Thursday, September 17, 7-8 pm

Join a timely conversation with Karen Hao, award-winning journalist and author of *Empire of AI*. Hao will explore the rapid rise of artificial intelligence, the social, political, and ethical questions surrounding AI development today, and the questions posed in her work: Will AI produce broad-based societal benefit for all? Or return us to an age of empire?



Preserving History with Geoffery Baer

Tuesday, October 20, 7-8 pm

Tag along for a special conversation with Geoffrey Baer, beloved Chicago historian, storyteller, and host of numerous PBS programs exploring the architecture, history, and hidden stories of the city and surrounding region. Known for bringing local history to life, Baer has helped audiences connect more deeply with the places and communities around them.



Words, Power, and Community with Dr. Eve L. Ewing

Thursday, November 12, 7-8 pm

Engage in an important and thoughtful conversation with Dr. Eve L. Ewing, acclaimed author, educator, poet, and cultural organizer whose work explores race, education, identity, and community. Explore the power of language and storytelling as Dr. Ewing reflects on how words shape public memory, challenge systems of inequality, and help communities imagine new futures.



Multi-Age

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

Maker Mondays Drop-In

Mondays, 10 am-5 pm

September 14, 21, 28

October 5, 26

November 2, 9, 16, 30

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.

Club de Recién Llegados / Newcomer Club

Lunes, 14 de septiembre, 9 de noviembre, 6-7 pm

@ La Michoacana Twister

Únete a este grupo acogedor para ayudar a los recién llegados a conectar y adaptarse a su nuevo entorno. Nos reuniremos para escuchar una historia, seguida de juegos de mesa y sorteos. No es necesario inscribirse.

Mondays, September 14, November 9, 6-7 pm

@ La Michoacana Twister

All ages. Join this welcoming group to help newcomers connect and adjust to their new environment. We'll enjoy a storytime, followed by board games and a raffle. Drop in, no registration required.

Autumn Trivia Challenge

Thursday, September 17, 7-8:30 pm

Ages 14+. Compete in teams of up to four by correctly answering questions to find our autumn elite. Bonus points for coming dressed up for the season. [RR](#)

Randall Oaks Zoo: Superheroes

Saturday, September 26, 1-2 pm

All ages. We all know Batman, Wonder Woman and Spider-Man, but do you know that many animals have superpowers too? From keeping our forest floor clean, to keeping pests away from our homes, nature has some serious superheroes. Learn about the amazing things animals can do! Please register each person attending. [RR](#)

Trivia of Terror

Thursday, October 8, 7-8:30 pm

Ages 14+. Compete in teams of up to four by correctly answering questions to crown our Halloween royalty. Bonus points for coming dressed up for the holiday. [RR](#)

Telescope Night

Wednesday, October 14, 7:30-8:30 pm

Join NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador Mark Benson for a free star party and NASA discussion. We'll be looking at Saturn, its rings, and one of its moons. Mark will take all of your questions, and there will be NASA goodies to take home. If you have a telescope, you are welcome to bring it! Drop in.

75th Anniversary Bookmark Contest



Show your love for CAPL and what it means to you by creating a bookmark to enter our contest. Winning bookmarks will be printed and given as the sign-up prize for our 2026-27 Winter Reading challenge.

Rules:

- One entry per person
- Enter in one of four categories: Pre-K-grade 2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8, or grade 9-adult
- The bookmark must be 6" high x 2" wide (a template will be available September 2)
- Designs may be in any medium (drawn, sketched, digital), but must be two-dimensional so they can be printed
- Designs must be family-friendly

Timeline:

- September 2: Pick up a template at our Service Center or download it from our website at caryarealibrary.org/contest
- November 2: Entries due at the Service Center or submitted online
- November 9: Winners announced; they will receive 5 copies of their bookmark
- Mid-December: Winning bookmarks are given as sign-up prizes to Winter Reading registrants

Teens

RR = registration required

Teen Volunteer Board

Tuesdays, September 8, November 10, 7-8 pm

Tuesday, October 13, 5:30-6:30 pm

Grades 6-12. Join this fun service club to help with library volunteer projects. Participants will get volunteer hours for every meeting they attend. During the October 13 session, we'll assist FOCAL with the setup for the fall book sale. **RR**

Coding Club

Tuesdays, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, 6-7 pm

Grades 6-8. Explore our coding database Fiero Code! Learn team work, problem solving, and creative thinking all while making friends and creating fun, playable games and visual stories. All participants will need to create an account with Fiero Code. Please come with your username and password ready to go. **RR**

Glass Mosaic Coaster

Tuesday, September 15, 7-8 pm

Grades 6-12. Spend a creative evening making a mosaic tile coaster! Using colorful tiles and patterns, create a beautiful, functional piece to take home. **RR**

Half Day Hangout

Wednesday, September 16, 12-2:30 pm

Fridays, October 30, November 20, 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. CJH students have a half day of school on these dates. Drop in.

Build-A-Robot

Sundays, September 20, November 1, 1:30-4 pm

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

Teen Gaming

Tuesdays, September 22, November 24

Thursday, October 22

7-8:30 pm

Grades 6-12. Play board games and video games (projected on the big screen), including a selection of Nintendo Switch and Switch 2 games. Registration preferred, walk-ins welcome.

TeenTober October 1-31

Grades 6-12. To celebrate TeenTober, a nationwide initiative that focuses on helping teens fuel their passions inside and outside of the library, Teens who checkout a book during TeenTober can enter into a drawing to win a book bundle. And while you're here, each week in October pick up a new Take & Make Kit (while supplies last):

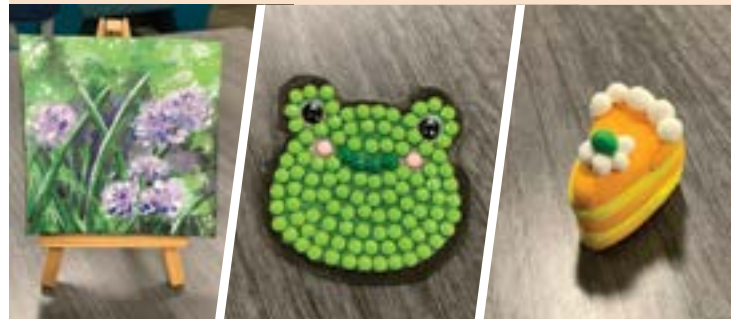
Week 1: Shrinky Dink Keychain

Week 2: Mini Canvas Painting (below, left)

Week 3: Diamond Art Kit (below, center)

Week 4: Brick Building Birds

Week 5: Model Magic Mini Food (below, right)



Robotics Basics

Monday, September 28, 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**

Textured Ghost Painting

Tuesday, October 27, 6:30-7:30 pm

Grades 6-12. Create a textured painting of festive ghosts using spackle, just in time for Halloween. **RR**

Robotics Workshop

Monday, November 9, 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**

3D Pen Art

Tuesday, November 17, 7-8 pm

Grades 6-12. Bring your imagination to life, literally! Use 3D pens to draw in the air and create unique sculptures, accessories, and designs while exploring a new dimension of creativity. **RR**

Elementary

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

RR = registration required

Full STEAM Ahead: Dino Dig 101

Tuesday, September 1, 5-6 pm

Grades K-2. Dig for dinosaur fossils and learn about paleontology. *RR*

String of Stalactites @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Friday, September 11 at 9 am

Grades K-5. Grow some stalactite crystals during this experiment using baking soda. *RR*

Coding Club

Tuesdays, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, 6-7 pm

Grades 4-5. Explore our coding database Fiero Code! Learn team work, problem solving, and creative thinking all while making friends and creating fun, playable games and visual stories. All participants will need to create an account with Fiero Code. Please come with your username and password ready to go. *RR*

Build-A-Robot

Sundays, September 20, November 1, 1:30-4 pm

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

Monday Fun Day Kids' Game Night

Grades 4-5: *September 21, October 19, November 16*

Grades 2-3: *October 5, November 2*

6:30-7:30 pm

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

STEAMworks: Secret Agent Spy School

Tuesday, September 22, 5-6:30 pm

Grades 3-5. Learn and develop secret agent spy skills during some sneaky and surprising STEAM activities! *RR*

Robotics Basics

Monday, September 28, 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*



Book Buddies Book Club: *Ghoulia* by Barbara Cantini

Monday, September 28, 6:30-7:15 pm

Grades 1-4. Introduce newly independent readers to a fun book series! Borrow a copy of the book starting Tuesday, September 8, and then attend the meeting for fun crafts and activities at the end of the month! *RR*

Jr. Master Gardeners

Tuesday, September 29, 5:30-6:30 pm

Grades 1-5. Come ready to get your hands dirty as we explore the fascinating world of plants. *RR*

LEGO Club

Sundays, October 4, November 8, 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 parent for each program. *RR*

Fun with Bots: Build a Bristlebot

Tuesday, October 6, 5-6 pm

Grades 3-5. Turn the head of a toothbrush into your very own bristlebot! Plus, watch how it performs in a couple of challenges. *RR*

Green Over Screens @ Home Kit: Vintage Pumpkin Ornament

Kit pickup begins Friday, October 16 at 9 am

Grades 4-5. We're leaning into nostalgia with some vintage-inspired "gourdness!" *RR*

Apple Mummification @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Friday, October 16, 9 am

Grades K-5. Using apples and a variety of salt mixtures, discover which mixture is best for mummification. *RR*

Green Over Screens @ Home Kit: Tricks & Treats Bag

Kit pickup begins Friday, October 23 at 9 am

Grades K-1. Make the cutest tricks and treats bag! *RR*

Andertoons: Spooky Stories

Saturday, October 24, 1-2 pm

Grades K-5. Legend has it that on the very day this class is held, a spooky specter will return from the beyond to... Wait! What was that?! Did you hear that?! It's... it's... A terrifically fun new cartooning class! We'll draw ghosts! Ghouls! Goblins! And Gary!!! (Who's Gary?! You'll have to wait and see!) *RR*

We Love Graphic Novels Book Club

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

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

Cardboard Creations: Make a Mask

Tuesday, October 27, 5-6 pm

Grades 2-5. Design and create your very own mask out of cardboard. Make it scary, goofy or however you want! *RR*

Native American Musical Instruments

Tuesday, November 3, 5-6 pm

Grades 1-5. Learn about and make a couple of Native American musical instruments in honor of Native American Heritage Month. *RR*

Robotics Workshop

Mondays, November 9, 6:30-8:30 pm

Grades 3-5. Develop your skills with our LEGO SPIKE Prime robots. Each workshop has a different lesson and different challenges for you to try out. You must have attended the Robotics Basics class to attend this workshop. *RR*

Green Over Screens: Cardboard Dino

Wednesday, November 11, 4:30-5:30 pm

Grades 2-3. Make room in your room for these large creations! *RR*

Starburst Rock Cycle @ Home Kit

Kit pickup begins Friday, November 13 at 9 am

Grades K-5. Learn about the rock cycle using Starburst candy. *RR*

Green Over Screens: Leaf Lepidoptera

Wednesday, November 18, 4:30-5:30 pm

Grades 4-5. Create butterflies and moths with materials from nature. *RR*

Nature Explorers: Super Squirrels

Tuesday, November 24, 5-6 pm

Grades K-2. Learn all about squirrels and their superpowers while participating in some fun activities! *RR*

Top 10 Most Borrowed Kids' Books

July 2025-June 2026

1. *Sleepy Snoopy* (Peanuts) by Charles M. Schulz
2. *Buffalo Fluffalo and Puffalo* by Bess Kalb
3. *Search for the Snowy Wolf* (Minecraft) by Nada Shawish Dutka
4. *Kisses, Kisses, Head to Toe!: A Lift-the-Flap & Mirror Book* by Karen Katz
5. *The Humble Pie* by Jory John
6. *What Hat is That?* (Sesame Street) by Nichole Mara
7. *Christmas is Here!* (Paw Patrol) by Matt Huntley
8. *Smooches!* by Sandra Boynton
9. *Back in Business* (Curlfriends) by Sharee Miller
10. *The Mosquito Burrito* by Didi Dragon



Family

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

Family Game Night

Tuesday, September 1, 6-7 pm

Children must be school age or older. Join other families, children and caregivers, or mentees and mentors for an evening playing board games. Feel free to bring a favorite from home or choose from our selection. This is a great opportunity to meet other families in our community and to try a new board game. Snacks will be available. Please register under one name, then list how many are in your group. **RR**

Turkey Bingo

Saturday, November 14, 12:30-1:30 pm

Our annual event is back! Come as a family (of up to five people) to play Turkey Bingo. If you get a bingo, you will win part of your Thanksgiving dinner and, yes, one of the items is the turkey! Limited to 9 families; register under one name but enter your total group number. **RR**

Firefly Family Theatre: The Harvest Moon

Saturday, November 28, 10:30-11:30 am

Ideal for ages 2-7. Join Spark the Firefly and all her friends as they welcome a new season. Watch the changing leaves, gather acorns with a silly squirrel, and experience all the sights and sounds of Fall in Firefly Grove. The Harvest Moon includes puppets, original music, interactive movement and lots of fall fun for families! Please register each person attending including children and caregivers. **RR**



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Recent news reports suggest that kids are reading less. One way to help ensure that your child develops a reading habit is to start when they're young. You may care about increasing their literacy skills but they will care (and remember) how it makes them feel. It's all about the experience.

What's a free and convenient way to develop this habit that fulfills both you and your child's needs? Our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program! It incentivizes reading for them and allows them to bond with you and books/reading/the Library, while they learn early literacy skills that prepares them for schooling.

Visit the Service Center and sign up to get a book tote and their first log. As they progress, their caterpillar will climb up and up the stack of books in our Children's Area until it becomes a butterfly (pictured to the left). Don't forget: Books you read toward this program can count for any other reading programs you participate in throughout the year.

DROP IN STORYTIMES

Evening Storytime

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm

September 2, 9, 16, 30

October 21, 28

November 4

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



Weekly Storytime and Stay & Play

Mondays, 10:30 am

September 14, 21, 28

October 5, 26

November 9, 16, 23, 30

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

Hang out after Storytime to play—we'll have a selection of educational toys that will help with motor skills, sharing, and imaginative play.

Saturday Storytime

10-10:30 am

September 12 (*Mo Willems themed!*)

October 10

November 14

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

Storytime with the Dance Team

Wednesday, September 23, 5:30-6 pm

Ages 0-6 with an adult. Join the Cary-Grove JV and varsity dance teams for a night of reading and dancing. We'll end with a special performance.

Hora de Cuentos en Español / Spanish Storytime

Miércoles, 7 de octubre 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 con énfasis en otoño. Todos son bienvenidos, no importa si inglés o español es su primer idioma.

Wednesday, October 7, 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 fall. All are welcome, no matter if English or Spanish is your first language.

Early Childhood

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

RR = registration required

Green Over Screens: Autumn Crowns

Thursday, September 24, 10:30-11:30 am

Ages 3-6 with an adult. Charming fall crowns to wear all the way until Halloween! **RR**

Stories & Seasons

Tuesdays, Sept. 29, Oct. 27, Nov. 17, 10:30-11 am

Ages 3-6 with an adult. Sweet stories and a charming craft with a focus on nature to fit right in with the seasons! **RR**

Green Over Screens: Twisty Autumn Tree

Thursday, October 8, 10:30-11:30 am

Ages 3-6 with grown up. Get lots of fine motor practice with these cute and twisty trees! **RR**

Sign with Katy

Fridays, October 9, November 13, 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**

Learning Garden: Goodnight Garden

Tuesday, October 20, 10:30-11:30 am

Ages 3-6 with an adult. See you next year, little garden! We'll read a story and save some seeds. **RR**

Green Over Screens @ Home Kit: Tricks & Treats Bag

Kit pickup begins Friday, October 23 at 9 am

Ages 3-6 with an adult. Goodbye summer and say hello fall with this sweet little project! **RR**

Green Over Screens: Kick Start Art! Very Busy Spider

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

Ages 3-6 with an adult. Join us for Eric Carle's *The Very Busy Spider* story and make a busy spider of your own! **RR**

Cary Area Public Library

1606 Three Oaks Road
Cary, IL 60013-1637

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

Executive Director

Ashley Huffines

Welcoming all to connect and explore—checkout the possibilities!

Learning Garden Celebration



Saturday, September 19, 10:30 am-12 pm

Rain date: Sunday, September 20, 1:30-3 pm

Join us in celebrating the Learning Garden's first growing season! We will have a photo-op and ribbon cutting ceremony, giveaways, and lawn games available for the whole family to enjoy.

Native Plant Seeds Available This Fall

We'll have native plant seeds available this fall on a first-come, first-service basis at the Service Center.

Please stay tuned for more details, including exact date the seeds will be available on our website at caryarealibrary.org/seedlibrary

