

Shelf Life

Cary Area Public Library

Winter 2026-27

Newspapers Online
Winter Reading
Finding Community
Annual Jigsaw Puzzle Competition

Event Registration

View complete event descriptions on our online Events Calendar. **Registration begins Thursday, November 12 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 3, 7 pm
Thursday, January 7, 7 pm
Thursday, February 4, 7 pm

Community → FOCAL → Library → Community
Thanks to the great support of the community for our book sales we were able to help fund the founding of the Library's new Learning Garden, including the purchase of the garden beds, a storage shed, and various supplies. We were also able to fund the festivities for the Library's 75th Anniversary, including the prizes for the Diamond Reading program and the Summer Bash festivities.

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**

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

December 4	Closed 9-1, Open 1-5
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 25	Christmas
December 31	New Year's Eve
January 1	New Year's Day
February 5	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 2026-February 2027

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

Free Newspapers Online with Your CAPL Card

Access local and national newspapers, including *Northwest Herald*, *Daily Herald*, *USA Today*, and more through NewsBank for free with your CAPL card. No paywalls! You can read the image format, which looks exactly like the printed paper, or the text-only version. NewsBank also gives you access to historical collections like HeritageHub and Hispanic Life in America to research family history and cultural impact.

You can also access *The New York Times* online and search for articles on Newspaper Source from EBSCO. Visit our website to get started and have your CAPL card handy to login. **caryarealibrary.org/newspapers**

Browse Better on Our Catalog

Searching our catalog is a given. But browsing it? That's just gotten an upgrade. Our catalog homepage now features only our book lists and custom buttons to help you "browse" our collection from home or on your phone. Title lists are made by our staff to highlight the season, what's popular, and what's important right now. Pre-set genre buttons allow you to see just those titles and then filter down if you wish based on your preferences. Want to see what your neighbors are reading? Check out the "Trending at the Library" list.

All of this is presented visually, because let's be honest, browsing often starts with the book cover! **caryarea.bibliocommons.com**



BRANCH OUT

Winter Reading • December 14-January 18

Sign up for our all-ages Winter Reading Challenge beginning December 14 and receive a winning 75th anniversary bookmark contest bookmark (while supplies last). Readers can earn tickets into the grand prize drawing for each book completed. An optional activity can be completed for an additional grand prize drawing ticket. Those who complete the required reading will earn a finishing prize (while supplies last).

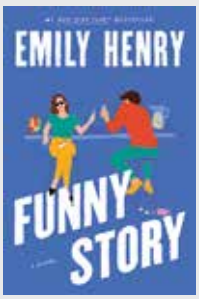
To track your books, we recommend downloading the Beanstack app but you may also log your reading online through our website on Beanstack or on a paper log, which you can access beginning December 14 online.

Find all the details, including grand prize descriptions, Beanstack links, and printable logs online at **caryarealibrary.org/winterreading**

During Winter Reading we will be collecting baby supplies for Kids in Need. *Psst: If you donate an item, you can earn an extra Winter Reading badge and ticket towards the grand prize!*

What do we mean by "branch out?" Try out a new-to-you genre! Here are some titles in the most popular genres to get you started. We'll have more suggestions once Winter Reading starts in December.

ROMANCE



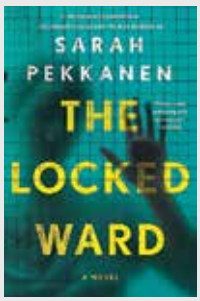
Funny Story
by Emily Henry

MYSTERY



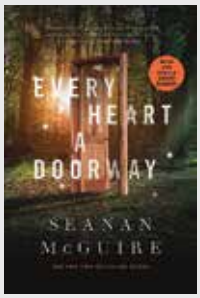
Defending Jacob
by William Landay

THRILLER



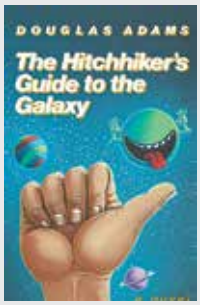
The Locked Ward
by Sarah Pekkanen

FANTASY



Every Heart a Doorway
by Seanan McGuire

SCI-FI



The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
by Douglas Adams

HORROR



What Moves the Dead
by T. Kingfisher

HISTORICAL FICTION



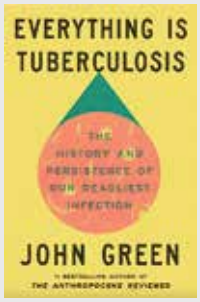
The Last Days of Night
by Graham Moore

MEMOIR



Raising Hare
by Chloe Dalton

GENERAL NONFICTION



Everything is Tuberculosis
by John Green

Adults

RR = registration required

Winter Birds of McHenry County
Wednesday, December 2, 7-8 pm
Not all of our feathered friends abandon us during the colder months. Learn to identify McHenry County's winter birds and how to attract them to your yard with Rachel Gustafson from the McHenry County Conservation District! *RR*

The History of Challah and Sufganiyot
Tuesday, December 8, 7-8 pm
Challah, the sweet, braided bread is the ultimate weekly comfort food. While Jewish communities eat it primarily on the Sabbath, it actually has no biblical connection. Even though latkes take second place in Israel, in America the merits of the humble dish have been debated by Nobel Prize winners and professors. Discover the history, humor, and heart behind challah and sufganiyot while noshing on them during this delicious presentation. *RR*

Starved Rock History From a Native Perspective
Wednesday, December 9, 7-8 pm
Gerald, a tribal elder with the Ho-Chunk Nation who lived in the Starved Rock area for many years, will discuss the history of the local tribes at Starved Rock, the legend of how Starved Rock got its name, how the park changed from an exclusive resort to a State Park, the Starved Rock Murders, Native ceremonies held at the park, and current park statistics. *RR*

Duct Tape Scalloped Ornaments
Monday, December 14, 7-8 pm
Learn how to use duct tape to make ornaments with scallops flowing down the side. *RR*

Winter Sowing
Monday, December 14, 7-8 pm
Master Gardener Doug Moore will provide hands-on instruction on sowing seeds indoors using repurposed materials you probably have around the house. Please bring a clean, empty milk jug to use as a planter. *RR*



Starved Rock From a Native Perspective

Professor Moptop's Holiday Party
Wednesday, December 16, 7-8 pm
From Nat King Cole to Run DMC to the Chipmunks and many more, the Professor will visit to present the stories, inspiration, and history behind some of the most beloved, all-inclusive holiday songs from the past 100 years, as well as some lesser known tunes. *RR*

3D Printing Pens
Saturday, December 19, 10-11:30 am
Create 3D art with your own hands! You'll be able to choose from a variety of winter designs. *RR*

Movie Night: *While You Were Sleeping*
Wednesday, December 23, 6:30-8:30 pm
Rated PG. We'll watch this 1995 rom-com starring Sandra Bullock, Bill Pullman, and Peter Gallagher. After crushing on a man from afar, Lucy gets the chance to save his life. While he's recovering in the hospital, she's mistaken for his fiancé. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

End of Year Catch-Up
Wednesday, December 30, 3-5 pm
Come join us as we wrap up the year with coffee, donuts, and activities to enjoy at your leisure! Registration preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

McHenry County Roads
Wednesday, January 6, 7-8 pm
In 1837, three men surveyed a road from present-day Algonquin, crossing the prairie to McHenry...you know this road today as Route 31! Join retired history teacher and President of the McHenry County Historical Society Board, Robert Frenz, to hear stories of McHenry County roadways from 1837-1960. *RR*

The Road to Project Hail Mary: Where Science Fiction and Reality Meet
Wednesday, January 13, 7-8 pm
Science fiction novels, films, and shows have always been an inspiration to aspiring astronauts, scientists, and astronomers. Today, many of the technologies we associate with sci-fi are being created and utilized. Join NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador Mark Benson for a video presentation and Q&A about where we stand. *RR*

Duct Tape Corner Bookmarks
Saturday, January 16, 10:30-11:30 am
Learn this simple DIY that turns duct tape into an adorable corner bookmark to help you save your place in a book with style! *RR*

Ayurveda 101: Discover the Wisdom of Ayurveda
Wednesday, January 20, 2-3 pm
Join Ayurveda Doctor Swati (Vaidya) for Ayurveda 101—an engaging and practical introduction to India's ancient holistic system of health and wellness. *RR*

Safe at Home: Fall Prevention & Everyday Safety
Friday, January 22, 11 am-12 pm
Dana Tress, Physical Therapist and VeDA Ambassador, will provide participants with education and awareness on improving personal safety, independence, and reducing fall risk at home and during everyday activities. This session includes time for Q&A. *RR*

DIY Lunar New Year Bookmark
Monday, January 25, 6:30-8 pm
Decorate and put together an adorable paper goat bookmark to welcome in the Year of the Goat! *RR*

Medicare 101
Wednesday, January 27, 7-8 pm
Whether you are enrolling in Medicare for the first time or have been on it for a while, learn how to be a smart and educated consumer so you can feel in control of your healthcare. *RR*

American Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Certification
Saturday, January 30, 10 am-2 pm
This course equips participants to recognize and care for a variety of first aid, breathing, and cardiac emergencies for all ages through hands-on activities, videos, and discussions. Upon successful completion, participants will receive a two-year digital certificate for Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED. *RR*

Artists of the Harlem Renaissance
Wednesday, February 3, 7-8 pm
The Harlem Renaissance that began in 1917 was the first Afrocentric cultural movement in American History. Encompassing literature, music, philosophy, and visual art, this presentation from art historian Denise Laurin, focuses on major visual artists whose work has influenced African American art through the present day. *RR*

Romance Book Fair
Saturday, February 6, 1-3 pm
Offsite at Platt Hill Nursery Greenhouse, Carpentersville
Meet and chat with 10 area writers. We'll turn a cold winter afternoon into a cozy, romantic bookish hangout with chocolate, coffee, and drawings for book baskets and plants! Books will be available for sale and signing. Registration preferred, but not required.

Welcome to Japan!
Wednesday, February 17, 2-3 pm
Joe Galligan from the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago will offer us a virtual look into some of Japan's most popular tourist destinations with notes about Japanese culture and general tips for travelers. *RR*

Google Workspace 101: Intro to Gmail
Saturday, February 20, 10-11:30 am
If you need help learning how to navigate your Gmail account, this is the class for you! We will provide laptops, but you can bring in your own computer if you would like to practice on a more familiar device. *RR*

Digital Safety for Parents
Tuesday, February 23, 6-7 pm
This presentation will provide information on how to help your child find digital balance, chat safely online, be mindful of their digital footprint, and utilize social media and other online tools in a safe and respectful way. It will also cover relationships in the digital world and ways youth can identify and respond to digital abuse. Presented by Turning Point, Inc.

Greetings from the Black City: More Snapshots from the Chicago Black Experience
Wednesday, February 24, 7-8 pm
Join Clarence Goodman as he uncovers timeless characters and tales of African American History in Chicago, spanning the themes of entertainment, science, commerce, politics, and beyond.

Looking for community? **Find it here.**

As we head into the colder months that can seem more isolating, and the new year, which can present a fresh start, there's never a better time to join a club or discussion group. You can participate to the level you're comfortable and still find connection. **What are you waiting for?**

2026 Great Decisions
Thursday, December 3, 6:30-8 pm
Engage in lively discussion of foreign policy issues hosted by Lars Cederquist. Each session members can expect to watch a video and read a chapter about a relevant topic involving world affairs from the Briefing Book. The 2027 season begins in March but the required 2027 Briefing Book can be purchased now for $15; no refunds. *RR*



NEW! Neurodiverse Hangout
Monday, December 7, 7-8 pm
Come to our Neurodiverse Hangout—an opportunity for individuals with an Autism Level 1 diagnosis, ADHD, or identify as neurodiverse to share a supportive space. You can play games, do puzzles, and connect with other neurodiverse adults. Drop in. *Please note: the staff member does not have formal certification and will therefore not be facilitating program activities.*

Cary Area Writers Group (CAWG)
Saturdays, Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, 12-3 pm
Writers ages 21+. Bring copies of your writing to pass around for gentle, constructive critiques. Questions? Email kurterickwalters@gmail.com.

Books on Tap @ Cary Ale House
Tuesdays, Dec. 15, Jan. 19, Feb. 16, 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.

True Crime Book Club
Thursdays, December 17, February 18, 6:30-8:30 pm
Adults and teens 16+. For February, we'll discuss *The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime, and a Dangerous Obsession* by Michael Finkel. *RR*

Genealogy Interest Group
Sundays, Jan. 24, Feb. 28, 2-3 pm
Interested in genealogical research? Share and learn with us. Drop in, no registration required.

NEW! The Hush Club
Sunday, January 31, 2-4 pm
Offsite at Conscious Cup Cary
The first rule of Hush Club: don't talk **at** Hush Club. Join CAPL's quiet book club at Conscious Cup where we'll read our own books in the same space. Drinks and treats will be available for purchase. Registration preferred but not required.

Adult Book Discussion Groups *RR*
Books are available each month at the Service Center.

Hooked on Books • Wednesdays, 10:30-11:45 am
*December 2, *11 am-12 pm; Offsite, location TBA: Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon
January 27: How to Age Disgracefully by Clare Pooley
February 24: To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Turning Pages Together • Thursdays, 7-8 pm
December 10; Offsite, location TBA: My Friends by Fredrick Backman
January 28: Wild Dark Shore by Charlotte McConaghy
February 25: People of Means by Nancy Johnson

ONLINE EVENTS

Iroquois Theater Fire
Thursday, December 3, 7-8 pm
Through powerful storytelling, historic imagery, and thoughtful context, this program examines the 1903 tragedy that forever changed fire safety standards in theaters and public spaces. *RR*

The Strange, Dark, and Funny Origins of Everyday Sayings
Tuesday, January 26, 7-8 pm
Through storytelling and humor, Illinois entertainer Dale Obrochta will explore the history behind familiar sayings such as "bite the bullet," "mad as a hatter," and "read the riot act." *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*

Hygge Kitchen - Cozy Scandinavian Comfort
Wednesday, December 9, 6:30-8 pm
Embrace the Danish tradition of hygge (pronounced HOO-gah) by creating cozy, comforting recipes perfect for the winter season. Think warm aromas, simple homemade favorites, and delicious dishes that make gathering around the table feel extra special.

Fast Food Favorites at Home
Wednesday, January 13, 6:30-8 pm
Skip the drive-thru and recreate some of your favorite takeout-inspired meals. Discover practical techniques, budget-friendly tips, and homemade versions that are as satisfying as the originals.

Pizza Workshop - From Dough to Dinner
Wednesday, February 17, 6:30-8 pm
Discover the secrets to making delicious pizzeria-style pizza. From mastering the basics to building confidence with homemade dough and toppings, you'll gain skills you can use for countless pizza nights to come.

Board Game Arena Virtual Game Night
Monday, February 1, 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*

Where is AI in 2027 and Where is it Going?
Tuesday, February 23, 7-8 pm
Join AI Safety Awareness Project for a beginner-friendly overview of today's most powerful AI systems and where AI may be in the next 1-5 years. We'll tackle important questions like: Could AI lead to mass unemployment, or will it help create entirely new kinds of work? How might AI supercharge scams, hacking, and even crime? And will people form deep emotional bonds or even romantic relationships with AI companions? *RR*

Illinois Libraries Present

Zoom. These online events are made possible by a statewide public library collaboration. *RR*

Funny on Purpose with Sasheer Zamata
Tuesday, January 19, 7-8 pm



Comedy has the power to challenge, connect, and bring people together. Known for her four seasons on Saturday Night Live, Sasheer Zamata will discuss her creative journey, the evolving landscape of comedy, and how humor can create space for connection and conversation.

Navigating Hallowed Ground with David Grann
Thursday, February 18, 7-8 pm



David Grann is an author and journalist whose bestselling titles include *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* (2017) and *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* (2023). Grann's work navigates bizarre, often violent historical episodes, to which he lends an immediacy that freshens their intrigue while considering them within their respective historical contexts.

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
December 7, 14, 21, 28
January 4, 11, 18, 25
February 1, 8, 22
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.

75th Anniversary Trivia
Thursday, December 10, 7-8:30 pm
Ages 14+. Compete in teams of up to 4 people by correctly answering questions to maintain dominance. Bonus points for coming dressed up like it is 1951! *RR*

Winter Reading Trivia
Thursday, January 7, 7-8:30 pm
Ages 14+. Compete in teams of up to 4 people by correctly answering questions to show who's knowledge branches out the furthest! Bonus points for coming dressed up like a tree or for the season. *RR*

Fourth Annual Jigsaw Puzzle Competition
Saturday, January 23, 12-3 pm
Test your puzzle prowess in the fourth annual Cary Area Public Library Jigsaw Puzzle Competition! Registrants will compete to see which team can complete a 500-piece puzzle the fastest. We will have two categories of competitors: Adult (ages 18+) and Family (at least one 18+ and at least one under 18). Please register under one name and indicate the number of competitors in your team (up to 4 per team). Refreshments will be served, and winners will receive special commemorative pins and bragging rights! If you are a single registrant looking to join other singles and form a team, please note this in the comments section, and we will try to make accommodations. *RR with a CAPL card.*



Superb Owl Saturday

Galentine's Day Trivia
Thursday, February 4, 7-8:30 pm
Ages 14+. Compete in teams of up to 4 people by correctly answering questions. Bonus points for coming dressed for Valentine's Day or in a group costume. *RR*

Let's Celebrate Ramadan!
Wednesday, February 10, 5:15-6:15 pm
All ages. Join us for a Ramadan Iftar—the meal when Muslims break their daily fast—here at the library. We will have dinner together and representatives from the American Muslim Community Organization (AMCO) will be present to answer any questions you have over plates of yummy food. *RR*

Superb Owl Saturday
Saturday, February 13, 2-3 pm
Celebrate Superb Owl Saturday with owl friends from the Stillman Nature Center! To some people, owls are symbols of wisdom but to others their hoots are harbingers of death and doom. Join award-winning naturalist Mark Spreyer as he reveals the truth about many of our North American owls and other raptors. Owls' amazing hunting adaptations are explained. Special feathered guests illustrate just who's who! *RR*

The **Library Lovers Expedition** is taking a break this year, but have no fear, we'll be doing something just as fun here. Stay tuned!

Teens

RR = registration required

Teen Volunteer Board
Tuesdays, December 8, January 12, February 9, 7-8 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. *RR*

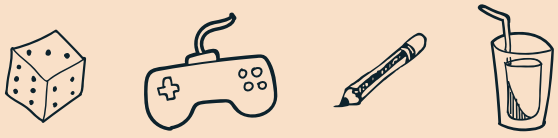
Finals Week De-Stress Kits
Kit available beginning Monday, December 14, 3 pm
Grades 9-12. Finals week is tough, so stop by the Teen Area all week long after school and pick up a de-stress kit filled with small study essentials to help you relax, recharge, and refocus. Available while supplies last.

Coding Club
Tuesdays, December 15, January 19, February 16, 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*

The Great Ugly Sweater Cookie-Off
Tuesday, December 15, 7-8 pm
Grades 6-12. Sip hot chocolate and listen to jingles while competing to create the most festive ugly sweater sugar cookie. The winner will walk away with a prize. Ugly sweaters are encouraged! *RR*

Half Day Hangout

Fridays, December 18, February 12, 11:30-2:30 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.



Teen Gaming
Tuesdays, Dec. 22, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, 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.

Robotics Basics
Monday, January 11, 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*

Build-A-Robot
Sunday, January 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*

Vision to Victory
Tuesday, January 19, 7-8 pm
Grades 6-12. Welcome 2027! Create a vision board using images, words, and creative materials that will encourage self-reflection, creativity, and goal-setting. *RR*

Duct Tape Hyacinth Flowers
Monday, February 8, 6:30-8 pm
Grades 6-12. Bring your love for spring indoors! Make your own hyacinth bouquet using duct tape. *RR*

Stick, Sparkle, Repeat
Tuesday, February 16, 7-8 pm
Grades 6-12. Unwind and get creative with diamond bead art—a relaxing, hands-on craft. Participants will learn the basics of this easy-to-follow technique and complete their own eye-catching artwork. *RR*

Robotics Workshop
Monday, February 22, 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*

Elementary

Child(ren) can independently attend without a caregiver to build confidence.
RR = registration required

STEAMworks: Light Up the Night, Build a Flashlight
Tuesday, December 1, 5-6 pm
Grades 3-5. Build your very own flashlight that really works! *RR*

LEGO Club
Sundays, December 6, February 7, 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 caregiver for each program. *RR*

Monday Fun Day Kids' Game Night
Grades 2-3: *December 7, January 4, February 1*
Grades 4-5: *December 21, January 18, February 15*
6:30-7:30 pm
Make friends and discover new screen-free games! *RR*

Coding Club
Tuesdays, December 15, January 19, February 16, 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*

New Year's Slime @ Home Kit
Kit pickup begins Friday, December 18, 9 am
Grades K-5. Make your very own sparkle slime to celebrate the coming New Year! *RR*

Full STEAM Ahead: Winter Solstice Lanterns
Tuesday, December 22, 5-6 pm
Grades K-2. Create a winter solstice lantern to help light up the darkest night. *RR*

Nature Explorers: Hibernation
Tuesday, January 5, 5-6 pm
Grades K-2. We will investigate and learn about how some animals hibernate to survive a long winter. *RR*

Robotics Basics
Monday, January 11, 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*

Jr. Master Gardeners: Microgreens
Tuesday, January 12, 5-6 pm
Grades 1-5. Come ready to get your hands dirty as we explore the fascinating world of plants. Even in the winter months, you can grow something green! During this Jr. Master Gardener program, you will be learning about and growing microgreens. *RR*

2-Ingredient Snow Dough @ Home Kit
Kit pickup begins Friday, January 15, 9 am
Grades K-5. Bring the snowman building inside! With only two ingredients, you will make some snow dough that you can use to build a snow man. *RR*

Duct Tape Corner Bookmarks
Saturday, January 16, 2-3 pm
Grades 3-5. Learn this simple DIY that turns duct tape into an adorable corner bookmark to help you save your place in a book with style! *RR*

Build-A-Robot
Sunday, January 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*

Book Buddies Book Club: *Sydney and Taylor Explore the Whole Wide World* by Jacqueline Davies
Monday, January 25, 6:30-7:15 pm
Grades 1-4. Introduce newly independent readers to a fun book series! Borrow a copy of the book starting Monday, January 4, and then attend the meeting for fun crafts and activities at the end of the month! *RR*



Blanket Fort Fun!
Tuesday, January 26, 5-6 pm
Grades 2-5. Bring a big blanket or two and build a blanket fort! Activities to do in the fort included. *RR*

Cardboard Creations: Chinese Dragon Puppet
Tuesday, February 2, 5-6 pm
Grades 2-5. In honor of Chinese New Year on February 6, we will use cardboard items to create a Chinese Dragon puppet. *RR*

Working Heart Pump Model @ Home Kit
Kit pickup begins Friday, February 12, 9 am
Grades 2-5. How does a heart work? Make a working heart pump model and find out! *RR*

We Love Graphic Novels Book Club
Monday, February 22, 6:30-7:15 pm
Grades 4-5. Talk about your favorite graphic novels, discover new ones, meet friends, and have snacks! *RR*

Robotics Workshop
Mondays, February 22, 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*

Fun with Bots: Ozobots Bowling
Tuesday, February 23, 5-6 pm
Grades 3-5. Have fun programming an Ozobot robot to go bowling. *RR*

Green Over Screens: Sweet Snowflake @ Home Kit!
Kit pickup begins Friday, February 26, 9 am
Brighten up the last weeks of winter with this sweet little snowflake! This program is for grades 4-5 only. Please register one kit per family only. Thank you. *RR*

Read With a Dog
Saturday, February 27, 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*

MEET KIRA

OUR NEW YOUTH PROGRAMMER!



Why did you want to take on this new role working with kids in the community?
My background is in elementary education, so this position seemed like the perfect opportunity to combine education with fun! During my time as a classroom teacher, I always had the most fun when I could plan something that allowed my students to be up and moving and get creative. I cannot wait to get to know the families in the Cary community and make the Library a welcoming place to learn and grow.

Can you share any exciting plans or ideas you're introducing?
I am so excited to be taking over youth game nights and book clubs! I love playing board games and reading in my free time, so I was thrilled to learn I'd be able to do two of my favorite things, not just at home, but at work too.

What are some of your favorite children's books?
Some of my favorite middle grade books include *Because of Winn Dixie* and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, both by Kate DiCamillo; *El Deafo* by Cece Bell, and *Prisoner B-3087* by Alan Gratz. I also have wonderful memories growing up of my parents reading me *How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?* by Jane Yolen, *Inside a House That is Haunted* by Alyssa Satin Capucilli, and *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn.

Early Childhood

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

NEW! Chat and Play
Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30 pm
December 1, 15
January 5, 19
February 2, 16
Ages 0-6 with a caregiver. Drop in for a relaxed afternoon of play and connection! Caregivers can enjoy coffee, little ones can enjoy toys, and all can enjoy time to meet other families.

Sign with Katy
Fridays, December 11, January 15, February 19, 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*

Kick-Start Art! John, Paul, George, and Ben
Monday, February 15, 10-11 am
Ages 3-6 with an adult. Join us for *John, Paul, George and Ben* written and illustrated by Lane Smith, and we'll create something that makes us look presidential (George wig or Abe hat)! Please register with your child's name only, up to two children per family. *RR*



Stories & Seasons
Tuesday, February 23, 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*

Holiday Picture Books Now Checkout for 2 Weeks

Children's holiday picture books and board books now checkout for two weeks instead of three, so more families are able to enjoy these timely books during their associated season. Don't worry, all other picture books and board books will remain as a three-week checkout.

DROP IN STORY TIMES

Evening Storytime
Wednesdays, 5:30-6 pm
December 2, 16, 30
January 6, 13, 20, 27
February 3, 17, 24
Ages 0-6 with an adult. Stories, music, and fun!

Weekly Storytime and Stay & Play
Mondays, 10:30 am
December 7, 14, 21, 28
January 4, 11, 18, 25
February 1, 8, 15, 22
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.

Spanish Storytime/Hora de Cuentos en Español
Wednesdays, December 9, February 10, 6-6:30 pm
Ages 0-6 with an adult. Edades 0-6 con un adulto. We will read stories, sing songs, and have other activities in both English and Spanish with a focus on Winter/Spring. All are welcome, no matter if English or Spanish is your first language.
Miércoles 9 de diciembre y 10 de febrero, 6-6:30 pm
Vamos a leer historias, cantar canciones, y tener otras actividades en inglés y español con énfasis en invierno/primavera. Todos son bienvenidos, no importa si inglés o español es su primer idioma.

Saturday Storytime
10-10:30 am
December 12
January 9
February 13
Ages 0-6 with an adult. Stories, music, and fun!

Family

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

DIY Tiny Pasta Plant Magnets
Monday, December 28, 6:30-7:15 pm
Grades 4-8 with an adult. Make some mini plant magnets using dry pasta and a bit of hot glue! Perfect to spruce up your fridge or locker. Register each child and include the name(s) of the adult(s) attending with them. *RR*

Family LEGO Fun!
Sunday, January 3, 2-3 pm
Work together to create and build a LEGO design that we'll display in the Library! Sign up by family. *RR*

Family Game Night
Tuesday, January 5, 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*

Financial Literacy Power Hour
Thursday, January 21, 6:30-7:30 pm
Kids in grades 2-6 with an adult. This hands-on event in partnership with Mathnasium, is designed to explore essential real-world money skills like earning, saving, spending, and borrowing via interactive games and activities. Build real-world financial confidence! Register with the child's name, and let us know how many people will be attending with the child. *RR*

Quality Screentime For Your Kids with TumbleBookLibrary

If your child wants screentime, but you want it to be worthwhile, we have a guilt-free solution for you. TumbleBookLibrary is a platform exclusively for children's titles that offers books, graphic novels, educational videos, puzzles, games, math stories, and language learning online or in their app (it's available for iOS and Android—search "tumblebooks" in your app store).

Find reading, listening, or read-along options for picture books and chapter books to help all types and stages of readers. The animated picture books are just like the Peek-a-Book in our Children's Area. The convenience of the app, and especially the timed book playlists, is perfect for car rides and waiting rooms.

To access the collection, you'll need to have your CAPL card handy to login the first time. With TumbleBooks you can feel confident that your child is learning something while online! **kids.caryarealibrary.org/ekids**



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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

ECRWSS
Postal Customer
Library Patron

Welcoming all to connect and explore—checkout the possibilities!

Changes to How We Accept Donations

To help donation process go smoother, we are asking for your help. If you have a few items to donate, we will have a marked bin in our lobby, across from the water fountain. If you have four or fewer bags or boxes of materials, nothing changes: you can bring them to our Service Center. However, if you have more than four bags or boxes of materials, you will need to schedule an appointment with the Friends of the Cary Area Library members to drop them off. Appointments can be scheduled through our website at **caryarealibrary.org/focal**

What types of donations do you take?
Gently used book and audio-visual donations are accepted. We do not accept encyclopedias and reference sets, magazines, yearbooks, textbooks over 5 years old, and VHS and cassette tapes. Material that is accepted but not added to the Library's collection is saved for the Friends of the Cary Area Library book sales. Items that are not sold are donated to local area charities or are recycled. Your donation is tax-deductible and we have forms available upon request at the time of your donation.

