



The Bookplate

A Publication of the River Forest Public Library

Winter 2025

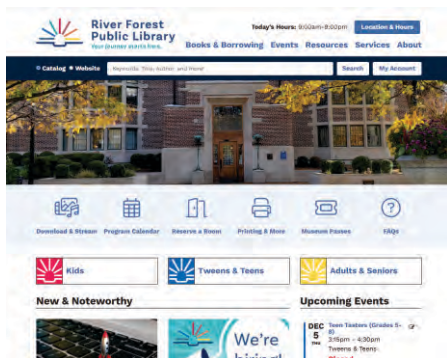
New Year, New Us!

Our New Website Is Here!

For the past six months, Library staff have been working hard in partnership with our website firm (Library Market) to bring you a new and improved library website.

Our new website meets accessibility and ADA compliance requirements, is fully integrated with our calendar system, and addresses feedback we collected from our community and staff.

You'll find improved navigation, quick links to connect to popular items, and dedicated pages for Kids, Tweens & Teens, and Adults & Seniors. Online Resources (formerly the Digital Library) are now searchable by type, age, and topic. New sections include our Library of Things, Reading Challenges, Community Resources, a new and improved FAQ page, and so much more. Start exploring today!



**River Forest
Public Library**
Your journey starts here.



Children's Room Updates



A generous grant by the River Forest Public Library Foundation is funding space and technology updates in our Children's Room. Already in place is our **new forward-facing board book shelving**, which highlights this popular collection for easier browsing and enjoyment. Coming soon are **new iPads** downloaded with kid-friendly apps that kids (up to Grade 4) will be able to borrow and use in the Children's Room with their library card. A **new display case** is coming, where kids in PreK-Grade 4 can sign up to display their collections for a two-week period. What kind of collections? Anything! From stuffies to legos, books to trading cards, the sky is the limit! This fun display will be another great way for our youngest patrons to connect with other young patrons in the community. **These new updates will be coming to Children's in early 2025, so stop by often to see what's new.**

From the Director

I am thrilled that we are starting out the new year with a brand-new website, new services like home delivery, and new activities like the Display Your Collection program, where kids can display their own prized collection for two weeks in the Children's Room. There is much to look forward to in 2025 too, not least of which is starting the final phase of the Community Room project, where we'll finish and furnish our new program room and add a bathroom adjacent to the space.

While I love looking to the future, it is also fascinating to learn about our past. As we were working on the new website, we updated the Library History page, adding important events like the dedication of the Anne T. Smedinghoff Memorial Garden in 2013. If you read the history page, you'll see how far the Library has come in its 120-year history. The original Library opened on Park Avenue with 1,000 volumes in 1905, and staff began offering programs three years later. The Library moved to our current location nearly 100 years ago in 1929, and by the 1960s, we were circulating 100,000 volumes per year. 1992 saw a significant building expansion, the original half of the building was raised by four feet, and the two halves were connected with a skylight. We also joined the SWAN Library System in the 1990s, giving our community access to millions of items available at other Illinois libraries.



From 1,000 volumes to millions; from a quiet library just starting to offer programs to a bustling community center; our little Library has certainly come a long way. I am excited to see how the Library continues to evolve in 2025 and beyond. Happy New Year from the Library!

Emily Compton, Library Director



Home Delivery Is Back

The River Forest Public Library is happy to announce that we are once again offering home delivery! This service is for patrons who are temporarily or permanently unable to come to the library because of illness, disability, lack of transportation, or other factors. You must be a River Forest resident and have a River Forest Public Library card to be eligible. **To learn more, visit our website or call the Adult & Teen Services department at 708-366-5205 ext. 316. Scan the QR code to complete a home delivery interest form.**



Enjoy Another Season of Virtual Events from Illinois Libraries Present

Illinois Libraries Present (ILP) is a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. Some highlights this season include Chicago Pizza with Steve Dolinsky (January 9), An Evening with James McBride (February 4), and Slowing Down with Amy Tan (February 19). Visit our website for full details.

We're Having a Local Artisan Fair

This spring, we're having our first ever Local Artisan Fair. Discover the talents and creativity of local artists and makers who will be at the Library displaying their wares. We'll also have special maker demonstrations throughout the event. The event will be held on Saturday, April 5, from 10 AM-2 PM. More details and artist application coming soon. Check our website for updates.



Coming Soon

Fiction:

Death of the Author by Nnedi Okorafor (Jan)
We Do Not Part by Han Kang (Jan)
Famous Last Words by Gillian McAllister (Feb)
Queens of Crime by Marie Benedict (Feb)
Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall (Mar)
The Sirens by Emilia Hart (Mar)
Lethal Prey by John Sandford (Apr)
Say You'll Remember Me by Abby Jimenez (Apr)
Strangers in Time by David Baldacci (Apr)

Nonfiction:

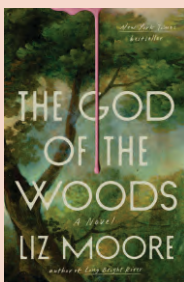
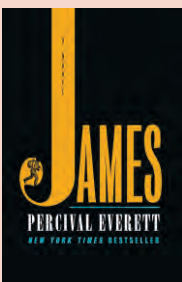
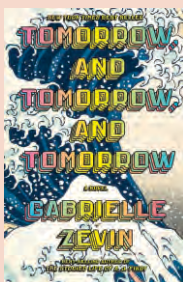
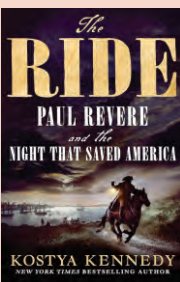
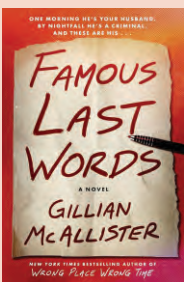
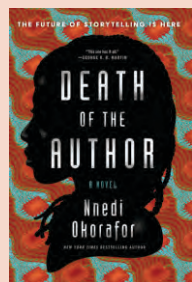
The JFK Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill Kennedy - And Why It Failed by Brad Meltzer & Josh Mensch (Jan)
Memorial Days: A Memoir by Geraldine Brooks (Feb)
The Ride: Paul Revere and the Night That Saved America - by Kostya Kennedy (Mar)



Place
Your
Holds
Now!

Some of our Faves in 2024

Abby: *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier
Ana: *There There* by Tommy Orange
Anne: *Whoever You Are, Honey* by Olivia Gatwood
Ariel: *Fleishman Is in Trouble* by Taffy Brodesser-Akner
Barb: *Darling Girls* by Sally Hepworth
Brian: *Long Island Compromise* by Taffy Brodesser-Akner
Cathy R.: *After Annie* by Anna Quindlen
Debbie: *The Wedding People* by Alison Espach
Emily: *Holly* by Stephen King
Fran: *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Zevin
Jenn: *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* by S. Collins
Koko: *A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara
Lisa: *James* by Percival Everett
Maggie: *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers
Melaina: *Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone* by Gabaldon
Shannon D.: *Blurry* by Dash Shaw
Shannon G.: *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore
Victoria: *Fourth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros



Young Artists Excel in Library Card Design

In September, to celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month, we held a Library Card Design Contest. We had many wonderful entries that touched our hearts. All library staff voted on their favorite designs and the winners were Avery, age 15, and Elise, age 9.

Avery is a freshman at OPRF High School and lives in River Forest with her parents and three sisters. She enjoys drawing, birds, basketball, sketching, journaling, crocheting, and reading.

Elise has been a patron of the River Forest library since an early age! She loves to create art by drawing, painting, and sewing. Elise also loves to dance and swim. Her favorite book is *The Wild Robot*, by Peter Brown.

Limited edition library cards featuring these winning designs are now available. These special cards also come with a key tag, so that you always have your library card handy. Sign up for a library card today and choose one of these special edition library cards or trade out your old card for one of these. Visit the front desk for details.

Read the full article on our website!



Design by Avery, Grade 9



Design by Elise, Grade 4



Upcoming Programs *Indicates registration required.



Childrens ● Tweens/Teens ● Adults ● Everyone ●

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

1/11	10:30-11:30 AM	Snow Globe Craft	Families
1/12	2-3:30 PM	Classical Guitar Concert with Neal Alger	Adult
1/15	7-8 PM	Mocktail Party: A Non-Alcoholic Cocktail Demo & Tasting	Adult*
1/18	10 AM-3 PM	Community Blood Drive	Adult*
1/18	10:30-11:30 AM	Fairy Making	Grades 3-4*
1/19	2-3:30 PM	Safe Landing: A Family's Journey After The Flight 191 Crash	Adult
1/20	10 AM-12 PM	Family Movie at the Library (<i>Turning Red</i>)	Families
1/24	10-11 AM	Brookfield Zoo Storytime at the Library	Families
1/30	3:30-4:30 PM	Donuts and Discussion	Grades 5-8*
2/2	2-3:30 PM	Ugly Prey: An Innocent Woman and the Death Sentence	Adult
		That Scandalized Jazz-Age Chicago	
2/6	10-10:45 AM	Juggling Funny Stories with Chris Fascione	Grades PreK-4*
2/14	10 AM-12 PM	Family Movie at the Library (<i>Frozen</i>)	Families
2/16	2-3 PM	1619: The Journey of a People	Adult
2/21	3-4:30 PM	Stuffed Animal Sleepover at the Library!	Grades PreK-4*
2/27	3:30-4:30 PM	Reviews for Ramen	Grades 5-8*
2/28	10-11 AM	Draw Your Own Adventure with Mark Anderson Andertoons	Grades K-4*
3/2	2-3:30 PM	Mary Todd Lincoln: A First-Person Portrayal	Adult
3/9	2-3:30 PM	Women's History Hindsight: The Struggle for Suffrage	Adult
3/15	All Day	Take a Puzzle, Leave a Puzzle	All Ages
3/20	3:30-4:30 PM	Donuts and Discussion	Grades 5-8*
3/23	2-3:30 PM	This Land is Your Land: The Folksongs of Woodie Guthrie	Adult
3/23	2-3 PM	Paw Patrol Craft	Families
3/28	10 AM-12 PM	Family Movie at the Library (<i>Despicable Me 4</i>)	Families
4/5	10 AM-2 PM	Local Artisan Fair	All Ages
4/6	2-3:30 PM	Death-Defying Acts: A History of the Circus	Adult
4/10	3:30-4:30 PM	Poems for Pancakes	Grades 5-8
4/13	2-4 PM	Earth Day: Our Power, Our Planet	Adult
4/17	11:30 AM-1:30 PM	Half Day Movie & Snack	Grades 5-8
4/18	10-10:45 AM	Little Miss Ann	Families*
4/23	3:30-4:30 PM	Recycled Papermaking with SCARCE	Grades K-4*
4/24	3:30-4:30 PM	Recycled Papermaking with SCARCE	Grades 5-8*
4/25	10 AM-12 PM	Family Movie at the Library (<i>Moana</i>)	Families
4/26	2-3:30 PM	Venti Wind Quintet Concert	Adult

Weekly & Monthly Events



Closures:

1/1, 2/7, 4/20

Go to our
calendar:



- Coffee Monday | Mondays, 10-11 AM | 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 4/7
- Afternoon Book Club | Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 PM | 1/8, 2/12, 3/12, 4/9
- Evening Book Club | Wednesdays, 7-8 PM | 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2
- Yoga or Meditation with Rhonda Fentry | Saturdays, 2-3 PM | 1/11, 2/8, 3/8, 4/12*
- Film Lover Fridays | Fridays, 1-3:30 PM | 1/17, 2/21, 3/21, 4/18
- Global Film Forum | Sundays, 2-4:30 PM | 1/26, 2/23, 3/30, 4/27
- Great Decisions | Wednesdays, 1-2:30 PM | 2/5, 2/19, 3/5, 3/19, 4/2, 4/16, 5/7, 5/21
- Craft and Chat | Thursdays, 7-8:30 PM | 2/13, 4/10*
- Teen Take & Makes | Monthly, while supplies last
- Middle School Makers | Tuesdays, 3:15-4:30 PM | Check website for dates | Grades 5-8
- Teen Tasters | Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 PM | 1/9, 2/6, 3/6, 4/3 | Grades 5-8*
- STEM Club | Mondays, 3:45-4:30 PM | 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14 | Grades K-4*
- Baby Storytime | Mondays, 10-10:30 AM | 1/27, 2/24, 3/31, 4/28 | Ages 0-1*
- Crafternoon | Mondays, 3:45-4:30 | 1/27, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28 | Grades K-4*
- Pajama Storytime | Mondays, 6:30-7 PM | 1/27, 2/24, 3/31, 4/28 | Families
- Storytimes for Kids | Tues., Weds., Thurs., and Fri. | See website for details

For the complete current list of programs or to register for an event
call us at 708-366-5205 or visit our library program calendar at riverforestlibrary.org



Save These Dates

Events subject to change.
Please check our website for most current info.



Adults

Mocktail Party

Wednesday, 1/15, 7-8 PM

Just in time for Dry January, chef Ashley Simone and mixologist Etta Worthington present a lively evening of non-alcoholic cocktail demonstrations and tastings. **Registration required.**

Ugly Prey: An Innocent Woman and the Death Sentence That Scandalized Jazz-Age Chicago

Sunday, 2/2, 2-3:30 PM

Author and journalist Emilie Lucchesi shares the true story of Sabella Nitti, an innocent woman sentenced to hang in Chicago in 1923 for the murder of her missing husband.

Women's History Hindsight: The Struggle for Suffrage

Sunday, 3/9, 2-3:30 PM

Historian, performer, and museum professional Ellie Carlson gives a talk on the history of the suffrage movement that won the right to vote for women.

This Land Is Your Land: The Folksongs of Woody Guthrie

Sunday, 3/23, 2-3:30 PM

Folk music historian Bucky Halker combines performance and spoken commentary in this tribute to legendary folk singer-songwriter Woody Guthrie.

Venti Wind Quintet

Saturday, 4/26, 2-3 PM

Treat your ears to live music in the Library performed by the Venti Wind Quintet, consisting of flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and horn. Perfect for springtime!

In partnership with River Forest Township

Teens

Donuts and Discussion

Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 PM

1/30 and 3/20

Grades 5-8

Enjoy donuts while discussing relevant social topics. **Registration required.**

Reviews for Ramen

Thursday, 2/27, 3:30-4:30 PM

Grades 5-8

Middle Schoolers are invited to share at least three facts about a favorite book in exchange for a cup of ramen with all the toppings! **Registration required.**

Poems for Pancakes

Thursday, 4/10, 3:30-4:30 PM

Grades 5-8

Who wants a pancake, sweet and piping hot? Read or recite a poem and receive a pancake with all the fixings.

Recycled Papermaking with SCARCE

Thursday, 4/24, 3:30-4:30 PM

Grades 5-8

This interactive, informative and fun presentation with SCARCE explains the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling. Learn how to turn trash to treasure! Take home a sample of recycled paper. **Registration required.**

All Ages

Take a Puzzle, Leave a Puzzle

Saturday, 3/15, All Day

Drop off a puzzle on the puzzle cart in our lobby and take another one home! **Please bring no more than four puzzles per household.**

Children

Brookfield Zoo Storytime

Friday, 1/24, 10-11 AM

Families

Prepare to journey to the arctic with Miss Jenn and staff from the Brookfield Zoo! This very special story time all about animals in arctic habitats will also include arctic-themed play stations! The ZAP! Storytime at the Zoo! will take place right here at the library in our meeting room!

Juggling Funny Stories with Chris Fascione

Thursday, 2/6, 10-10:45 AM

Grades PreK-4

Join us for this special storytime with nationally-known family entertainer Chris Fascione. You'll be laughing out loud as Chris brings children's stories to life with this high-spirited and innovative performance. **Registration required.**

Draw Your Own Adventure with Andertoons

Friday, 2/28, 10-11 AM

Grades K-4

You decide what, where, and who happens next! Oozing blob or skeleton? Creepy cave or jungle? Dance party or staring contest? We'll draw based on your suggestions! **Registration required.**

Little Miss Ann

Friday, 4/18, 10-10:45 AM

Families

Make your Friday extra fun by dancing and singing along with award winning Chicago kid's musician, Little Miss Ann! Great for families! **Registration required.**



Library Staff & Board of Trustees

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Children's Services Librarian.....	Debbie Larsen
Marketing and PR Specialist.....	Francisca Arnold



Library Hours:

Monday-Thursday	9:00 AM-9:00 PM
Friday & Saturday	9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Sunday (Sep.-May)	1:00 PM-5:00 PM

Contact Us

Phone: 708.366.5205

Website: www.riverforestlibrary.org



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