

Your journey starts here.



The Bookplate

A Publication of the River Forest Public Library

Spring/Summer 2025

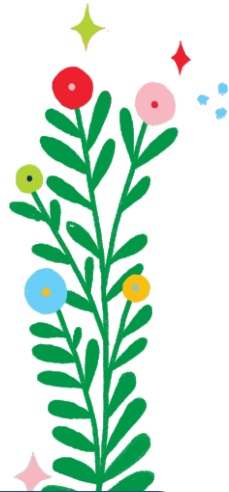


Summer Reading Programs June 6-August 1, 2025

All Ages!

We invite you to embark on a journey of art and creativity, as we **Color Our World**, this year's summer reading theme. River Forest Public Library card holders can enjoy reading all summer and collect prizes along the way by signing up for our adult, teen, or kids' summer reading programs. Enjoy color-inspired programming all summer long that will get your artistic juices flowing.

Get all the details
about our summer
reading programs:



Summer Reading Kickoff Party Friday, June 6, 2:30-4:30 PM

Kick off the summer with live music by School of Rock Oak Park, photo booth fun, face painting, and bubbles. Get a free shaved ice cup from Kona Ice when you sign up for our summer reading program (while supplies last).

Generously sponsored by RFPL Foundation



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

Summer Concert Series

Celebrate summer with an outdoor concert in the Library garden.

Thursdays, 7-8:30 PM

6/26: Donna Herula Blues Trio

7/24: Le Travailant (Cajun, Creole, and Zydeco)

8/21: Phil Angotti & Friends Play The Beatles

*In the event of rain, concert will be held inside on the second floor



Your place for learning, connection, and inspiration.

From the Director

The library is a busy place, and it has a rhythm to it. The toddlers march in in the morning, there to enjoy the play area in Children's or to join a rollicking story time. Early afternoons are quiet, with patrons working on computers and meeting in study spaces upstairs, maybe attending a program like Great Decisions to discuss the issues of the day. The whole building is lively after school, with tweens attending maker programs and meeting with friends in the middle school area on the second floor. The evening hours tend to be for quiet work and study before we close for the night.



This year we're busier than ever, averaging 10,000 patron visits per month. While we have wonderful events and collections for all ages that draw people to the building, the Library staff also enjoy coming up with a variety of what we call passive programs. For kids, these include scavenger hunts, monthly crafts, and a rotating guesstimation jar. Tweens and teens can pick up take-n-make craft kits, and adults may take a pack of seeds from the seed library in the spring. We also have our winter and summer reading programs, of course, where you can win fabulous prizes for doing the greatest activity – reading! Passive programming participation is up nearly 20% this year, showing that our community is taking advantage of all we have to offer.

I hope you're planning to visit this summer – our busiest season – to attend a fun event or to find your next great read. While you're here, sign up for summer reading and keep an eye out for the latest passive programs throughout the building. You may be surprised by what you find!

Emily Compton, Library Director



Celebrating Seniors Week, May 8-May 15



On Thursday, May 8, the Library will have two multi-generational events as part of this week-long celebration. At 10 AM, bring the grandkids to a special storytime, and at 6 PM, gather the family for a puzzle race. On Wednesday, May 14, connect with other older adults over crosswords and coffee from 10 AM-12 PM. Visit the Celebrating Seniors website at celebratingseniors.net to learn about all the events happening throughout the community.

We offer programs and services especially for older adults all year long. Ask about our home delivery services, discover cultural and educational events, connect with the community at Coffee Monday and Film Lover Fridays, explore our large print collection, and more.

Kids Can Display Collections in Children's Room

We've added a Collection Display Case to the Children's Room where kids in grades PreK-4 can display their collections for a two-week period. What kinds of collections? Anything! From stuffies to LEGO, books to trading cards, the sky is the limit! Have a collection you want to share with the community? Visit the Children's Room to sign up. **The Display Case was made possible by a generous grant from River Forest Public Library Foundation.**



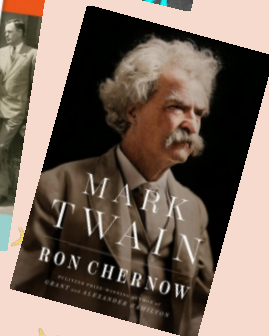
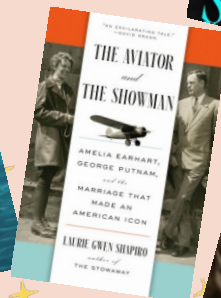
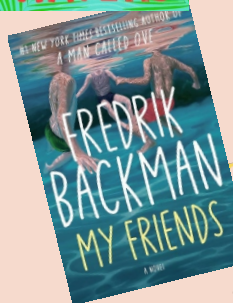
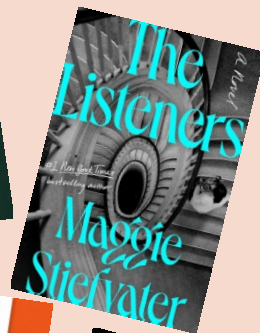
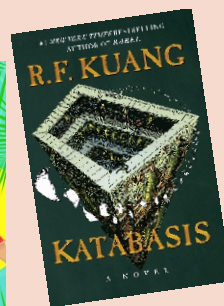
Coming Soon



Fiction:

The Love Haters by Katherine Center (May)
Tom Clancy Line of Demarcation by M.P. Woodward (May)
Flashlight by Susan Choi (June)
Murder Takes a Vacation by Laura Lippman (June)
The Listeners by Maggie Stiefvater (June)
The Woman in Suite 11 by Ruth Ware (July)
Vera, Or Faith by Gary Shteyngart (July)
Forget Me Not by Stacy Willingham (August)
Katabasis by R.F. Kuang (August)
We Are All Guilty Here by Karen Slaughter (August)

Place
Your
Holds
Now!



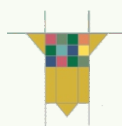
Nonfiction:

Mark Twain by Ron Chernow (May)
The Aviator and the Showman: Amelia Earhart, George Putnam, and the Marriage that Made an American Icon by Laurie Gwen Shapiro (July)

From the Foundation: A Decade of Dedication Honoring Our Contributors and Celebrating Our Mission



This year, we celebrate 10 years of incredible generosity and support for the work of the River Forest Public Library Foundation. Your commitment has helped enhance the Library, preserve its legacy, and ensure its continued role as a cornerstone of our community.



With your continued support, the Library has grown into a space where people of all ages and backgrounds come together to learn, connect, and be inspired. From maintaining and updating our historic building, to funding vital programs such as Summer Reading and maintaining the beautiful Anne T. Smedinghoff Memorial Garden, your impact is felt in every corner of our Library.

Because of your generosity, the Foundation has been able to fulfill its mission of enhancing the vitality of the River Forest Public Library for generations to come. As we celebrate this milestone, we honor the individuals and families who have joined us on this journey.

Thank you for 10 years of believing in our mission, helping us build a stronger community, and working to ensure the Library continues to thrive well into the future.

To learn more about the Foundation, opt-in to our newsletters, or donate to this important work, please contact us online by visiting rfplfoundation.org, emailing us at rfplfoundation@gmail.com, or scanning the QR code. Together, we can continue to make a difference.



Visit our Library Swag Shop

Show your love of libraries by sporting some River Forest Public Library gear. A portion of the sales from these items goes to the RFPL Foundation.

Go to:

riverforestlibrary.threadless.com
or scan the QR code.





Upcoming Programs *Indicates registration required.



Childrens ● Tweens/Teens ● Adults ● Everyone ●

				MAY	
5/8	10-10:30 AM	Toddler Time for Celebrating Seniors	Families		
5/8	6-8 PM	Jigsaw Puzzle Race (Celebrating Seniors)	Everyone*		
5/12	3:30-4:15 PM	STEM Club	Grades K-4*		
5/14	10 AM-12 PM	Crosswords and Coffee (Celebrating Seniors)	Adult		
5/18	2-3 PM	American Girl Doll Tea Party	Grades K-4*		
5/19	4-4:45 PM	Crafternoon	Grades K-4*		
5/22	10-10:45 AM	Firefly Theater	Families*		
5/22	3:30-4:30 PM	Donuts and Discussion	Grades 5-8*		
5/22	7-8 PM	My Life in Pies: A Pie Demo and Tasting w/Mary DiSomma	Adult*		
5/23	10-10:45 AM	Soft Play	Ages 0-6*	JUNE	
5/23	11:30 AM-1:30 PM	Half Day Movie & Snack	Grades 5-8		
5/27-5/29	4:30-7:30 PM	Exam Cram	Grades 9-12		
5/31	All Day	Puzzle Swap	Everyone		
6/6	2:30-4:30 PM	Summer Reading Kickoff Party	Everyone		
6/10	3:30-4:30 PM	Linoleum Block Printing	Grades 5-12*		
6/14	10:30-11:30 AM	STEM Club Summer Edition: Egg Drop	Grades K-4*		
6/18	4-6 PM	Juneteenth Flag Raising Celebration	Everyone		
6/21	2-3:30 PM	Monet Lives: A Portrayal of Claude Monet	Adult		
6/24	10-11 AM	ZAP! Storytime at Brookfield Zoo with Miss Jenn	Ages 0-10		
6/24	2-3 PM	Relay Races	Grades 5-12	JULY	
6/26	7-8 PM	Donna Herula Blues Trio (Summer Concert Series)	Adult		
6/28	12-3 PM	Clothing Donation Drive	Everyone		
7/8	3:30-4:30 PM	Embellished Photo Portraits	Grades 5-12		
7/19	10:30-11:30 AM	Danny Go Dance Party	Families		
7/19	2-3:30 PM	Antiques Appraisal	Adult*		
7/22	2-3 PM	Chalk the Walk	Grades 5-12		
7/24	7-8 PM	Le Travaillant (Summer Concert Series)	Adult		
7/26	2-3:30 PM	A History of Newspaper Comic Strips	Adult		
8/5	3:30-4:30 PM	Teen Tie Dye	Grades 5-12	AUG.	
8/9	10-11:30 AM	West Side Stories: A River Forest Walking Tour	Adult*		
8/9	10-11 AM	Sidewalk Chalk Pop-in	Grades K-4		
8/16	2-3:30 PM	Roadside Attractions with Leslie Goddard	Adult		
8/20	3:15-4:30 PM	Welcome Back	Grades 5-8		
8/21	7-8 PM	Phil Angotti & Friends Play The Beatles (Summer Concerts)	Adult		
<div><div>Weekly & Monthly Events</div><div></div><div>Closures:</div><div>5/25, 5/26, 7/4, 9/1</div><div>Closed Sundays 6/1-8/31</div><div><div>Go to our calendar:</div></div></div>					

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

My Life in Pies: A Pie Demo and Tasting with Mary DiSomma Thursday, 5/22, 7-8 PM

Baker and cookbook author Mary DiSomma joins us to celebrate her latest book, *My Life in Pies* with a demo and pie tasting. Books will be for sale. All proceeds will go to Hephzibah Children's Association and the OPRF Infant Welfare Society. **Registration required.**

Monet Lives: A Portrayal of Claude Monet Saturday, 6/21, 2-3:30 PM

Actor and artist Jim Parks, the former host of HGTV's *New Spaces*, brings art history to life in this portrayal of Claude Monet. Also enjoy a display of Parks' collection of handmade reproductions of Impressionist-era paintings.

Antiques Appraisal Saturday, 7/19, 2-3:30 PM

Back by popular demand, antiques dealer Rex Newell joins us again to appraise the value of your old treasures. **Registration required.**

Roadside Attractions Saturday, 8/16, 2-3:30 PM

Since Americans took to the highways for long-distance travel in the 1920s, entrepreneurs have been dreaming up unusual structures to attract passing motorists. Historian Leslie Goddard will explore these unique structures and what they tell us about the history of road travel.

***Don't miss our Summer Concert series. See details on front page or on our website.**

In partnership with River Forest Township

Teens

Exam Cram 5/27, 5/28 & 5/29, 4:30-7:30 PM Grades 9-12

Come study at the Library! Snacks and de-stressing activities will be provided at this event just for Teens.

Linoleum Block Printing Tuesday, 6/10, 3:30-4:30 PM Grades 5-12

Learn to carve your own linoleum block, then use it to create your very own unique print! **Registration required.**

Relay Races Tuesday, 6/24, 2-3 PM Grades 5-12

Join the Library and the Township for relay races and lawn games.

Embellished Photo Portraits Tuesday, 7/8, 3:30-4:30 PM Grades 5-12

Embellish a photo using yarn and other craft supplies. Send a photo you'd like printed to reference@rflib.org with the subject heading Embellished Photo Portraits or use one staff have pre-selected.

Teen Tie Dye Tuesday, 8/5, 3:30-4:30 PM Grades 5-12

Bring a light-colored item of clothing to tie dye on the lawn.

All Ages

Clothing Donation Drive
Saturday, 6/28, 12-3 PM
Donate your gently used clothes and accessories to The Give-n-Receive organization.

Children

Firefly Theater Thursday, 5/22, 10-10:45 AM Families

Join Spark the Firefly and all her friends for stories and songs about Spring and the power of kindness. The Kindness Garden includes puppets, original music, interactive movement and lots of springtime fun. **Registration required.**

Soft Play Friday, 5/23, 10-10:45 AM Ages 0-6 (with caregiver)

Experience sensory and physical play with the Soft Play Life. Children can enjoy a ball pit, double tunnel, seesaw, slide, and more! Program will be outside on the library lawn and will be moved indoors in case of inclement weather. **Registration required.**

STEM Club Summer Edition: Egg Drop Saturday, 6/14, 10:30-11:30 AM Grades K-4

Test out your design and engineering skills with this fun challenge. **Registration required.** Program will be cancelled in the case of rain.

ZAP! Storytime at the ZOO Tuesday, 6/24, 10-11 AM Ages 0-10

Join Miss Jenn and staff from the Brookfield Zoo at the Hamill Family Nature Plaza for a very special story time all about animal movement! Families without Brookfield Zoo memberships may visit the Children's Room to receive 2 free zoo admission passes for the event, while supplies last.

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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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