

Your journey starts here.



The Bookplate

A Publication of the River Forest Public Library

Spring/Summer 2026

Summer (and fall, and winter, and spring) is a great time to read for fun!

Reading what you like isn't just fun – it's healthy. Pleasure reading can reduce stress, develop empathy, spark creativity, and can even help you live longer.



Try These Healthy Reading Tips from Your Library



Read what you LOVE-no judgment.

There's no "right" book – if you love it, read it.



Audiobooks count. Listening to books counts as reading.

You don't have to finish every book (unless it's for school.)

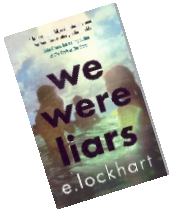


Graphic novels are great for all ages

and are excellent tools to encourage kids and teens to read.

Adults can read teen books too (we do it all the time!)

Not sure what you like? We'll help you find it!



**Explore
Our Favorite
Unputdownable
Books!**



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



Summer Concert Series

Celebrate summer with an outdoor concert in the Library garden (will be moved indoors in the event of rain.)



Thursdays, 7-8:30 PM

6/25: Chez Butter (Motown, soul, R&B, & funk)

7/23: Terry White & The Loaded Dice play Bob Dylan

8/27: Kaben Kafo (West African djembe drumming)

Your place for learning, connection, and inspiration.

From the Director

Happy Summer Reading! June 5th is our annual Summer Reading Kickoff Party, and it's like the Library Superbowl. We start planning months ahead of time, booking activities and entertainment. We care perhaps too much about logistics, worrying that the face painting and Kona Ice lines might converge, or that there will be a bottleneck in the summer reading signup lines. The party is an all-hands-on-deck event for staff and we are excited for it every year.



Summer Reading Kickoff Party
Friday, June 5, 2:30-4:30 PM

The kickoff party is a big deal to us because it ushers in the Summer Reading Program, the time when libraries are charged with keeping kids reading while they're out of school. It's the time when we help you find reading, watching, and listening material for summer trips, and Chicagoland weather allows us to plan events outside. Participating in the Summer Reading Program is the perfect opportunity to find the joy in reading, and you can win fabulous prizes in the process.

Thank you to the River Forest Public Library Foundation for sponsoring our Superbowl once again. I hope to see you at the Summer Reading Kickoff Party this June!

Emily Compton, Library Director



PLANT A SEED, READ



Summer Reading: June 5-August 14, 2026

This year's summer reading theme, *Plant a Seed, Read* is rooted in the concept of farm to table. A farm grows food that nourishes our bodies; a library grows ideas that nourish our minds. Both food and stories connect us to our family, culture, economy, and ecology.

Feed your curiosity, grow new ideas, and earn fun prizes this summer by joining our reading programs. We have activities and challenges for readers of every age.



Scan the QR code to learn more!



Get Out and Explore: Borrow a Museum or Cultural Pass!

As a River Forest Public Library patron, you have access to museum and cultural passes with your library card. The Library participates in the Museum Adventure Pass program as well as the Explore More Illinois Program.

Get free or reduced admission and other discounts to Chicago area museums and attractions.



Go to:

riverforestpubliclibrary.org/museum-cultural-passes



Coming Soon



Place
Your
Holds
Now!

Fiction:

- Score by Kennedy Ryan (May)
- The Calamity Club* by Kathryn Stockett (May)
- Keep Them Close* by David Ellis (June)
- A Fortune of Sand* by Ruta Sepetys (June)
- Cool Machine* by Colson Whitehead (July)
- Hot Girl Murder Club* by Ashley Winstead (July)
- The Lion and the Deathless Dark* by Carissa Broadbent (August)
- Under the Falls* by Richard Russo (August)

Nonfiction:

- Keeper of My Kin: Memoir of an Immigrant Daughter* by Ada Ferrer (May)
- The American School of Spies* by Stephen Talty (June)
- Tin Can Coast* by Joseph Ogilvy (July)
- Everyday Eats* by Alex Snodgrass (August)



From the Foundation: Explore Your New Library Spaces

Thanks to the generosity of River Forest Public Library Foundation donors, and their support of the Our Next Chapter campaign, **three new facility spaces** are now open and ready to serve our community:



- **A welcoming new community room for programs, meetings, and gatherings**
- **An ADA-accessible family restroom in the Children's Room**
- **Improved staff workspace to better support those who serve our community every day**



A complete list of donors can be found at rfplfoundation.org



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.



THANK YOU

OUR NEXT CHAPTER SUPPORTERS





Upcoming Programs *Indicates registration required.



Childrens ● Tweens/Teens ● Adults ● Everyone ●

5/2	2-3 PM	Spring Concert: Venti Wind Quintet	Adult	MAY
5/8	1-3 PM	Improv Workshop for Older Adults (Celebrating Seniors)	Adult*	
5/10	2-3:30 PM	Debating Independence: The American Revolution in 1776	Adult	
5/11	10-10:30 AM	Baby Storytime	Ages 0-1	
5/11	3:30-4 PM	STEM Club	Grades K-4*	
5/12	6:30-8:30 PM	Mahjong 101 (Beginner Level)	Adult*	
5/14	10-10:45 AM	Soft Play	Ages 0-6	
5/14, 5/28	3:30-4:15 PM	Nature Art Studio	Grades K-4*	
5/14	3:30-4:30 PM	Donuts and Discussion	Grades 5-8*	
5/17	2-3 PM	LEGO Club	Grades K-4	
5/18	3:30-4 PM	Crafternoon	Grades K-4*	
5/19	7-8 PM	Illinois Libraries Present: Babel-On with R.F. Kuang (virtual)	Adult*	
5/20	4-6 PM	Hoverball	Grades 5-8	
5/22	11:30 AM-1:30 PM	Half Day Craft & Snack	Grades 5-8	
5/27-5/29	4:30-7:30 PM	Exam Cram	Grades 9-12	
5/28	7-8 PM	Citizen Science Book Discussion	Adult	
6/5	2:30-4:30 PM	Summer Reading Kickoff Party	Everyone	JUNE
6/6	2-3:30 PM	The Mind Readers	Adult	
6/10	7-8:30 PM	Spice Up Your Summer: A Hot Sauce Class & Tasting	Adult*	
6/13	2-3 PM	Chair Yoga	Adult*	
6/16	10-10:45 AM	Tuesday Tales with Special Guest: Mr. José	Ages 0-6	
6/16	6:30-8:30 PM	Mahjong 102 (Intermediate Level)	Adult*	
6/16	3-4 PM	Sponge Bomb Battle	Grades 5-12	
6/17	3:30-4 PM	Make Your Own Seed Bomb	Grades K-4*	
6/17	4-6 PM	Juneteenth Flag Raising Celebration	Everyone	
6/20	2-3:30 PM	Voices of 1776: Diverse Faces Behind America's Founding	Adult	
6/25	7-8:30 PM	Summer Concert Series: Chez Butter	Adult	
7/14	6:30-8:30 PM	Mahjong 101 (Beginner Level)	Adult*	JULY
7/17	3-4:30 PM	Stuffed Animal Sleepover at the Library	Grades PreK-4*	
7/18	2-2:30 PM	STEM Club Summer Edition: Gardening	Grades K-4*	
7/18	2-3:30 PM	Antiques Appraisal	Adult*	
7/23	3-4 PM	Painted Plant Pots	Grades 5-12*	
7/23	7-8:30 PM	Summer Concert Series: Terry White Plays Bob Dylan	Adult	
7/28	10-10:45 AM	Birds of a Feather Concert	Families	
7/30	6-8 PM	Jigsaw Puzzle Race	All Ages*	
8/1	2-3:30 PM	Local Author Event with James Elsener	Adult	AUGUST
8/4	10:30-11:15 AM	ZAP! Storytime at Brookfield Zoo	Families	
8/4	3-4 PM	Teen Tie Dye	Grades 5-12	
8/5	3:30-4 PM	Decorate Your Own Mini Planter	Grades K-4*	
8/11	6:30-8:30 PM	Mahjong 102 (Intermediate Level)	Adult*	
8/15	2-3:30 PM	What Is A.I. Anyway?	Adult	
8/19	3:30-4:30 PM	Welcome Back	Grades 5-8	
8/22	2-3 PM	Meditation Soundbath	Adult*	
8/27	7-8:30 PM	Summer Concert Series: Kaben Kafo Summer Concert	Adult	
8/29	All Day	Puzzle Swap	All Ages	
8/29	2-3 PM	End of Summer Pickling Program	Grades K-4*	

Closures: 5/15, 5/24, 5/25, 7/4, 9/7, closed on Sundays 6/1-9/6.
See back for more programs.

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

Spice Up Your Summer: A Hot Sauce Class & Tasting
Wednesday, 6/10, 7-8:30 PM



Pepper grower and hot sauce enthusiast Kristen Lovett will tell you everything you need to know to make fresh hot sauce in your kitchen. Then sample different styles and brands of locally made hot sauce. How much heat can you handle? **Registration required.**

Voices of 1776: Diverse Faces Behind America's Founding
Saturday, 6/20, 2-3:30 PM

This talk by Valerie Gugala brings to light the stories of women, enslaved and free African Americans, Native peoples, and immigrants whose contributions shaped the Revolution and the new nation.

What Is A.I. Anyway?
Saturday, 8/15, 2-3:30 PM

What actually is artificial intelligence (A.I.), and why did it suddenly take over the news headlines? This information session will be conducted by an instructor from Wright To Learn, a digital learning facilitator.

In partnership with River Forest Township

Teens

Hoverball
Wednesday, 5/20, 4-6 PM
Grades 5-8

Try archery in a fun, safe way! Axe Legends will guide you in using recurve bows with foam-tipped arrows. Challenge your friends!

Sponge Bomb Battle
Tuesday, 6/16, 3-4 PM
Grades 5-8

Create your own sponge bombs, soak them, and throw them!

Painted Plant Pots
Thursday, 7/23, 3-4 PM
Grades 5-12

Celebrate our *Plant a Seed, Read!* theme by painting a plant pot! Plant included! **Registration required.**

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

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



Jigsaw Puzzle Race
Thursday, 7/30, 6-8 PM
Race as a team to finish a puzzle! Pizza served.
Registration required.



Children

Kayak with the Library
Thursdays, 11 AM-12 PM
5/7, 6/11, 7/30, 8/20

Families

Kayak on Thatcher Glen Pond at the Trailside Museum with Children's staff! See details on our website.
Registration required.

Soft Play
Thursday, 5/14, 10-10:45 AM
Ages 0-6 (with caregiver)

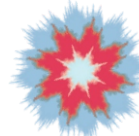
Experience sensory and physical play with a ball pit, double tunnel, seesaw, and slide with The Soft Play Life. **Registration required.**

Birds of a Feather
Tuesday, 7/28, 10-10:45 AM
Families

Join Birds of a Feather--a duo of kids' music stars Suzi Shelton and Little Miss Ann--for a fun, high-energy concert in the garden.

Summer Pickling Program
Saturday, 8/29, 2-3 PM
Grades K-4

Get ready for fall with this hands-on quick pickling program!
Registration required.



Weekly & Monthly Events



Go to our calendar:



- Coffee Monday | Mondays, 10-11 AM | 5/4, 6/1, 8/3
- Great Decisions | Wednesdays, 1-2:30 PM | 5/6, 5/20
- Evening Book Club | Wednesdays, 7-8 PM | 5/6, 6/3, 7/1, 8/5
- Watch the Oscar Nominees | Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 PM | 5/7, 6/4, 7/2, 8/6
- Craft and Chat | Thursdays, 7-8:30 PM | 5/14, 7/9*
- Film Lover Fridays | Fridays, 1-3:30 PM | 5/29, 6/19, 7/17, 8/21
- Middle School Makers | Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 PM | 5/5-6/2, 8/25 | Grades 5-8
- Teen Tasters | Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 PM | 5/7, 6/4, 7/9, 8/6 | Grades 5-8*
- Kayak with the Library | Thursdays, 11 AM-12 PM | 5/7, 6/11, 7/30, 8/20 | Families*
- Mini Messy Mondays | 10-10:30 AM | 6/15, 7/6, 7/20, 8/3 | Ages 2-6
- Stories in the Forest | Thursdays, 10-10:30 AM at Trailside | 6/18-8/13 | Ages 0-6
- Storytime in the Garden | Fridays, 10-10:30 AM | 6/19, 6/26, 7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 8/7, 8/14 | Ages 0-6
- Messy Mondays | Mondays, 3:30-4 PM | 6/22, 7/13, 7/27, 8/10 | Grades K-4*
- Read to a Dog | Tuesdays, 6-7 PM | 5/26, 6/23, 7/28, 8/25 | Grades K-4*
- Visit our calendar to see more storytimes for kids



Library Staff & Board of Trustees

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 Materials Services Manager..... Victoria Muraiti
 Adult and Teen Services Manager..... Shannon Gruber
 Adult and Teen Services Librarian..... Brian Wolowitz
 Middle School and Teen Librarian..... Anne Kowalski
 Adult and Teen Services Librarian..... Ariel Schick
 Children's Services Librarian..... Marissa Walentschik
 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

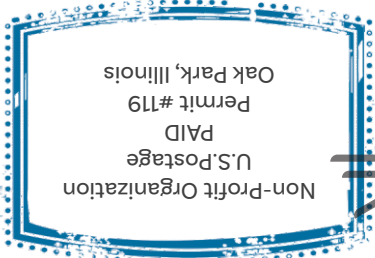
Contact Us

Phone: 708.366.5205
 Website: www.riverforestlibrary.org



Car-Rt Sort
 Residential Customer
 River Forest, IL 60305

DESTINATION:



River Forest Public Library
 735 Lathrop Avenue
 River Forest, IL 60305-1883

