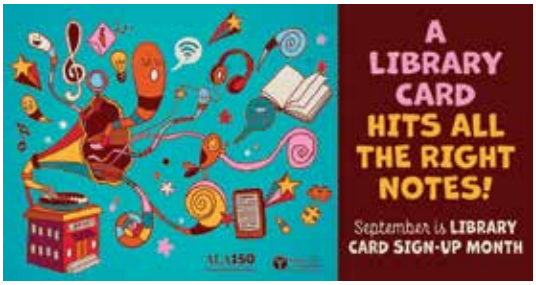
Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District

Fall 2026
VOL. 42, NO. 4

AMPL News

Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month



No matter what your tastes are, a library card hits all the right notes! Check out a classic story or hit shuffle and try something new. Find harmony at your library's book clubs, movie nights, crafting classes, and open mic. A headphone kind of day? Find your focus in a study room or vibe out in a cozy nook. Compose your future with new skills in your library's makerspace or check out instruments and tools in the Library of Things. No matter what rhythm you find yourself in, there's a seat in the front row at the library for you. **This September, be B-Sharp!** New library cardholders will be entered for a chance to win a special prize. Stop by and sign up today!

Friday Night Special: Murder Mystery

Friday, October 30 at 6:30 pm

Ages 21+. Come dressed as your favorite greaser or bobby-soxer and solve a 1950s prom murder mystery. Trade clues, gather evidence, and work together to uncover the culprit after a shocking death stops the dance. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Costumes are optional. Light refreshments provided. Registration begins Tuesday, September 1. Limit of 50.

Annual Food & Toy Drive

October 4 to December 13

We will be accepting new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items. All donations will be distributed by Worth Township. Donations may be dropped off at the library during regular business hours. For additional information, please contact the Patron Services Desk at 708-371-5666.

Kids

Scan Me to Register ▸

Session 1 begins September 13 and ends October 10. Session 2 begins October 25 and ends November 21.

Programs are drop-in, first-come firs-served, unless otherwise stated. Some programs may require a valid AMPPL library card to participate and to register. Children may check-in 15 minutes prior to the program, non-residents may participate if space is available 5 minutes prior to the start of the program. Our classes are generally 30 minutes long and process-oriented. They begin promptly at the designated time. For the best experience for your child, latecomers will not be admitted once the class has begun. Some of our programs may involve food so please be aware of food allergens. By attending our programs, you are giving consent for your child's photos to be used on our website, social media sites, and/or within the library.

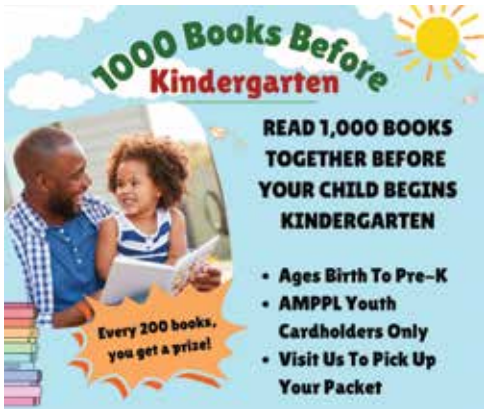
Morning Programs

Tales for Teddy Bears

Mondays at 10 am
(Repeated Program: Tuesday at 6:30 pm)
Ages 1-5 with caregiver. Bring your favorite teddy bear or stuffed friend and join us for a magical experience! Enjoy an engaging mix of stories, games, and creative crafts. Limit 12 children.

Coffee N' Treats: Baby & Me Playtime

Tuesdays at 10 am
Ages 5 and under with caregiver. Join us for a delightful session where both caregivers and kiddos can engage, socialize, and form meaningful connections. Limit 16 children.



Petite Picassos

Wednesdays at 10 am (No program October 7)
(Repeated Program: Thursday at 6:30 pm)
Ages 1-5 with caregiver. Join us as we explore and create new art each week! Little ones will have the opportunity to use a variety of fun art materials in this process-oriented art program. Please dress to get messy! Limit 16 children.

Sensory Play Hour

Thursdays at 10 am
Ages 7 and under with caregiver. Children and parents are invited to play and socialize in a safe, fun, and multi-sensory environment. This inclusive, interactive program will be enjoyed by children of all abilities, but is especially designed for children with sensory processing sensitivities. Limit 16 children.

Preschool Music and Movement

Fridays at 10 am
(Repeated Program: Wednesday at 6:30 pm)
Ages 5 and under with caregiver. This program offers a delightful blend of live guitar music and storytelling that captures the imagination of young children. Limit 24 children.

Winnie the Pooh 100th Celebration

Wednesday, October 14 at 10 am
Ages 1-5 with caregiver. Come share the magic of Pooh and friends as we celebrate a century of friendship, imagination, and fun! Enjoy stories, songs, simple crafts, and playful activities inspired by the Hundred Acre Wood. Registration begins Wednesday, September 30.

Afternoon Programs

Mini Science Lab: Big Reactions

Tuesdays at 3:30 pm (No program October 6)

Grades 1-4. Get ready to experiment, explore, and have fun with science! In this hands-on series, you will rotate through exciting experiments. Limit 12 children.

Reading Dragons Monthly Meetings

Select Wednesdays at 3:30 pm

Grades K-5. Are you a fan of trading cards, dragons, or reading? Swing by the Youth Services Department to grab your tracker. Limit 12 children.

September 30
October 28
November 18

Canvas Kids

Thursdays at 3:30 pm

Grades 1-8. This fun and creative painting program helps young artists explore color, imagination, and self-expression while building foundational art skills. Dress to get messy. Limit 12 children.

Once Upon a Canvas

Select Mondays at 3:30 pm

Grades 1-4. Reading meets art! After listening to an engaging story, children will dive into a guided art project that connects to the book. Limit 12 children.

September 14
September 28
October 26
November 9

Charm Slime

Wednesday, September 16 at 3:30 pm

Grades K-5. Come make a cool ocean slime complete with charms of your favorite sea creatures. Registration begins Wednesday, September 2. Limit 12 children.

Creation Station

Select Fridays at 3:30 pm

Grades 1-5. Each session features a new activity using simple materials. Designed to encourage creativity, curiosity, and hands-on learning through making and doing. Limit 12 children.

September 18
October 2
October 30
November 20

Super Mario Party Jamboree

Wednesday, September 23 at 3:30 pm

Grades K-8. Think you've mastered every mini-game in Super Mario Party? Play Super Mario Party Jamboree for an epic adventure! Limit 12 children.

Water in Your World

Wednesday, October 7 at 3:30 pm

Grades K-5. Bring your friends and see if you can be the first to complete our watershed science challenge. Limit 12 children.

Tasty Travels

Monday, October 12 & November 23 at 3:30 pm

Grades K-5. Travel around the world by sampling sweet and savory snacks from different countries. Not recommended for children with food allergies. Limit 12 children.

Super Smash Bros.

Wednesday, November 4 at 3:30 pm

Grades K-8. Let the battles begin! Join your friends in an epic showdown! Limit 12 children.

DIY Squishies

Wednesday, November 11 at 3:30 pm

Grades K-5. What's the one thing more fun than collecting squishies? Join us and create your very own squishie. Limit 12 children.

This event qualifies for Dive Into Reading Program indicated as

Kids

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Evening Programs

Wiggles & Jammies

Mondays at 6:30 pm

Ages 1-5 with caregiver. Step into the world of Wiggles and Jammies, where little feet can't stop moving and smiles never end! Each week, we dive into fun-filled adventures. Get set to wiggle, giggle, and let loose! Limit 20 children.

Tales for Teddy Bears

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
(Repeated Program: Monday at 10 am)

Ages 1-5 with caregiver. Bring your favorite teddy bear or stuffed friend and join us for a magical experience! Enjoy an engaging mix of stories, games, and creative crafts. Limit 12 children.

Preschool Music and Movement

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
(Repeated Program: Friday at 10 am)

Ages 5 and under with caregiver. This program offers a delightful blend of live guitar music and storytelling that captures the imagination of young children. Limit 24 children.

Petite Picassos

Thursdays at 6:30 pm (No program October 8)
(Repeated Program: Wednesday at 10 am)

Ages 1-5 with caregiver. Join us as we explore and create new art each week! Little ones will have the opportunity to use a variety of fun art materials in this process-oriented art program. Please dress to get messy! Limit 12 children.

Junior Authors Club

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

Grades 1-8. Join us and create a full picture book for the library's collection! Must attend each week. AMPPL Youth Cardholders only. Registration begins Wednesday, September 2. Limit 6 children.

Halloween Diamond Art

Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 pm

Grades 3-8. Join us to make a Diamond Art Halloween magnet for your fridge. Limit 12 children.

Halloween Beading Bonanza

Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 pm

Grades 3-8. Make Halloween-themed items to bring home like a beaded pen and maybe a keychain or bracelet. Limit 12 children.

Junior Authors Club Book Release Party

Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 pm

All ages. Join our Junior Authors Club for our Book Release Party! Each author will talk about their books created for our library's collection. Light refreshments provided. Not recommended for children with food allergies. Registration begins Wednesday, November 4.

Thanksgiving Diamond Art

Tuesday, November 24 at 6:30 pm

Grades 3-8. Make a Diamond Art magnet for your fridge for Thanksgiving. Limit 12 children.

Reading Challenge

Monthly Reading Challenge for Kids

Begins Tuesday, September 1

Birth-Grade 8. Are you ready to explore new stories and try something different? Every month, we will choose a fun theme or genre for you to try. Need a recommendation? Look for our Book Peepers, peeking out of some of our favorite books. Once you've finished, return to the library to receive a small prize and ticket to enter the monthly raffle! Limit 2 entries per month.

Dive Into Reading NEW!!

Begins Saturday, September 5

Birth-Grade 8. Win a trip to the Grand Bear Resort Waterpark! Stop by the Youth Services Department to pick up your Dive Into Reading tracker. Then, fill out your reading tracker by reading books, coming to Dive Into Reading programs, and more! When you have five stamps, bring it back to the library for a chance to win. There will be winners all school year long, with our waterpark grand prize in May.

Unboxing Club

Just for You! Books and Treats Surprise Program

Begins Monday, September 14

Birth-Grade 8. Get a special bag just for you! Fill out a questionnaire, and we'll match you with the perfect story and goodies. Return the book when you're done! Limit 1 bag/program session. AMPPL Youth Cardholders only. Registration begins Saturday, September 5.

Weekend Programs

Beginning Sounds Bingo

Saturday, September 5 at 11 am

Ages 2-5 with caregiver. B-I-N-G-O! Come join us and play bingo while we practice our beginning sounds! Limit 16 children.

Sight Word Bingo

Saturday, September 5 at 2:30 pm

Grades K-4. It's time for bingo! Can you be the first to get sight word bingo? Limit 16 children.

Sand Art

Saturday, September 12 at 2 pm

Grades 1-5. Mix, layer, and let your creativity flow while you make a great keepsake to bring home! Limit 12 children.

Canvas Kids

Saturday, September 19 & November 7 at 2 pm (Repeated Program: Thursday at 3:30 pm)

Grades 1-8. This fun and creative painting program introduces young artists to the exciting world of color, imagination, and self-expression. Please dress to get messy. Limit 6 children.

This event qualifies for Dive Into Reading Program indicated as

Kids

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Weekend Programs

Sensory Sunday

Sunday, September 27 & November 22
from 1:30-2:30 pm

Ages 7 and under with caregiver. Families can play and connect in a fun and multi-sensory setting. This program welcomes kids of all abilities and is designed to support those with sensory processing sensitivities.

Mystery on Bluebeard's Pirate Ship

Saturday, October 3 at 2 pm

Grades 2-5. Captain Bluebeard has given up the pirate life, and his treasure is up for grabs! Can you solve the mysteries and find his treasure? Registration begins Saturday, September 19. Limit 10 children.

Haunted House Workshop

Saturday, October 10 at 2 pm

Grades 1-5. Join us for a spooktacular afternoon of creativity! Paint and decorate a Halloween craft house. Limit 12 children.

Sensory Play

Sunday, October 11 at 1:30 pm

Ages 7 and under with caregiver. Families are invited to play and socialize in a fun and multi-sensory environment. Our program is designed to be inclusive, ensuring that children of all abilities can enjoy the experience. Limit 16 children.

Halloween Painting Special

Saturday, October 17 at 2 pm

Grades K-8. Will we paint a spooky painting or a silly painting for Halloween? Come find out! Dress to get messy. Limit 12 children.

Fall Gnome Workshop

Saturday, November 14 at 2 pm

Grades 1-5. Get creative this fall by painting your own festive gnome! Limit 12 children.

Volunteering (Grades 5-8)

Want to make a difference, earn volunteer hours, and have fun at the library? Join our Youth Volunteer program! Help with exciting events like Sensory Sundays, the Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt, the Family Holiday Celebration, and other library programs throughout the year. Build new skills, make friends, and give back to your community. Check with the Youth Services Department for upcoming volunteer dates, times, and availability.

Drop-in Volunteer Club

Select Mondays from 3:30-4:30 pm

Come with friends or meet new ones during this fun and flexible 1-hour youth drop-in volunteer opportunity where you can make a difference while getting creative! Each month features a new hands-on project. Light refreshments provided.

September 14
October 12
November 9

Volunteering: Content Creation

Sunday, October 4 at 2 pm

Are you ready to hang out with friends, earn service hours, and become an influencer? Come to the library and help us make content for our social media accounts! You will get to write, film, and edit short skits. Registration begins Sunday, September 20. Limit 12 children.

Volunteering: Sight Word Bingo

Saturday, September 5 at 2 pm

Come earn some service hours while helping the younger kids at Sight Word Bingo. Registration begins Saturday, August 22. Limit 3 children.

Level Up Programs (Grades 4-8)

Level Up! Back-to-School Survival Kit

Pickups begin Tuesday, September 1

Create your own goal tracker, habit builder, and motivation journal! It includes a back-to-school survival kit with helpful essentials. Limit 12, while supplies last.

Level Up! Chocolate Around the World

Pickups begin Sunday, September 13

Who has the tastier chocolate? You decide as we offer chocolate tasting from different countries. Limit 12, while supplies last.

Level Up! Create Your Own Potion

Pickups begin Thursday, October 1

Mix up magical hot cocoa "potions" using fun toppings and spooky ingredients. Kit includes cocoa mix, potion-inspired extras, and activities. Limit 12, while supplies last.

Level Up! Mini Building Succulents Kit

Pickups begin Sunday, October 11

Pick up a mini building block kit and create a succulent that won't need watering. Limit 12, while supplies last.

Level Up! Crochet Club: Absolute Beginner

Tuesday, October 13 at 3:30 pm

Join us for this beginner-friendly club! Learn a basic stitch to make a charm bookmark. No experience necessary. Registration begins Tuesday, September 29. Limit 5 children.

Level Up! Hot Ones Book Club

Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 pm

It's the club with hot questions, and hotter foods! Read *Minerva Keen's Detective Club* by James Patterson. Then, come talk about it and try spicy foods. Not recommended for children with food allergies. Registration begins Monday, September 14. Limit 10 children.

Level Up! Tasty Nibbles Cheese Pairing

Thursday, October 22 at 6:30 pm

We'll sample a variety of delicious cheeses paired with sparkling juices. Not recommended for children with food allergies. Limit 12 children.

Level Up! Graphic Novel Book Box

Pickups begin Sunday, October 25

Love graphic novels and looking for your next read? Enjoy a story along with some exciting tie-in goodies. Everything is yours to keep, even the book! Limit 10, while supplies last.

Level Up! Gratitude & Kindness Jar

Pickups begin Sunday, November 1

Decorate your own jar and fill it with gratitude notes, positive affirmations, and kindness challenges for yourself and others. Limit 12, while supplies last.

Level Up! Potholder Looms

Pickups begin Sunday, November 15

Come pick up a kit to start making potholders – which make great gifts! Limit 12, while supplies last.

Level Up! Crochet Club: Advanced

Tuesday, November 24 at 3:30 pm

Ready for a new crochet challenge? If you know the basic stitches, join us to create a crochet creature. Basic experience required. Registration begins Tuesday, November 10. Limit 5 children.

This event qualifies for Dive Into Reading Program indicated as

Kids

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Specials

Friday Night Special: Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

Friday, September 18 at 7 pm

All ages. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with mocktails, agua fresca, our From My Roots to My Story project, a virtual interview with Pam Muñoz Ryan, a live performance by Mariachi de Joliet, and Latin American snacks. Doors open at 6:30 pm. Registration begins September 1. AMPPL cardholders only. Limit 72.

Especial del Viernes Por La Noche: Celebración del Mes de la Herencia Hispana

Viernes, 18 de Septiembre a las 7 pm

Para todas las edades. ¡Celebre el Mes de la Herencia Hispana con cócteles sin alcohol, aguas frescas, nuestro proyecto De Mis Raíces a Mi Historia, una entrevista virtual con Pam Muñoz Ryan, un concierto en vivo de Mariachi de Joliet y bocadillos inspirados en distintos países de América Latina. Las puertas abren a las 6:30 pm. La registración empieza el 1 de Septiembre. Tarjeta de AMPPL requerida. Límite de 72 participantes.

Friday Night Special: Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt

Friday, October 30 from 6-8 pm

Birth-Grade 8 with caregiver. Explore Youth Services after dark as you search for hidden pumpkins. Flashlights provided.

Holiday DIY Photo Shoot

Select Mondays from 3:30-5 pm and 6-8 pm

Ages 4 and under with caregiver. Snap adorable memories at our cozy DIY photo shoot. We provide festive backdrops and props. You bring the cuteness, your camera, and wardrobe changes. Call to register your family for a 30-minute time slot.

Halloween: October 19 (Registration begins October 5)
Christmas: November 30 (Registration begins November 16)

Take Home Activities

Preschool Grab & Go Craft

Fridays

Ages 6 and under. We invite parents and guardians to pick up a fun craft designed specifically for your little ones to enjoy. Limit 60, while supplies last.

Preschool Explorers Activity Bags

First Day of the Month

Ages 5 and under. Looking for a way to keep your kiddos entertained while on the go? Our engaging activity bags are the perfect solution! Limit 12 bags per month, while supplies last.

Junior Explorers Activity Bags

First Day of the Month

Ages 6-8. Unlock your child's potential with our Junior Explorers Activity Bags! These bags are the perfect blend of learning and fun, designed to challenge and engage young minds while providing hours of enjoyment. Limit 12 bags per month, while supplies last.

Take Home Activity Packets

First Day of the Month

These packets are designed to provide a delightful and engaging experience for young minds, brimming with creative activities that align with a unique theme every month. Available while supplies last.

Bilingual Explorers Activity Bags

Wednesday, September 2 & Sunday, November 1

Ages 7 and under. Looking for something fun and educational to do at home? Pick up a bag filled with a hands-on project in both English and Spanish! Whether you're brushing up on Spanish or just trying it out for the first time, these activity bags are perfect. Limit 6 bags per theme, while supplies last.

Teens

These programs are for high school students in 9th-12th grade. Registration for all programs begins September 1. Visit Alsipmerrionette.librarycalendar.com or call 708.371.5666 to sign up.

K-pop Top Loader Event

Thursday, September 17 at 5:30 pm

Show off your favorite K-pop idol or favorite celebrity in style! Decorate a collectible photo top loader with stickers, charms, and fun embellishments to create a one-of-a-kind display perfect for your collection. Limit of 10.

Self-Care Kits Grab and Go's

Pickups begin Saturday, October 3

Life can get stressful. This is your reminder to slow down a bit. Stop by and grab a self-care kit filled with items and ideas to help you relax, recharge, and take care of yourself. Limit of 15.

Halloween/Fall Themed Cricut Totes

Thursday, October 15 at 5:30 pm

Get into the Halloween spirit by designing your own spooky tote bag! Use our Cricut machine and festive heat-transfer vinyl to create a custom bag that's perfect for trick-or-treating or carrying your favorite things. Limit of 5.

LEGO PJ Movie Night

Thursday, November 12 at 5:30 pm

Put on your favorite pajamas and join us for a cozy movie night! Watch a movie while building your own LEGO creations, enjoy some snacks, and relax with friends for a fun-filled evening. Limit of 10.

Take and Make Crafts

Pickups begin on select Mondays

Grab a craft kit and get creative! These take and make kits include everything you need to create a cool project at home. Limit of 7.

September 14 – Diamond Art
September 21 – Punch Needle
October 5 – Halloween Bracelets
October 19 – Ghost Pearl Photo Frames
November 2 – Pumpkin Wind Chimes
November 16 – Embroidery Kits

Tech Training

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Registration begins September 1. Visit Alsipmerrionette.librarycalendar.com or call 708.371.5666 to sign up.

Northstar Learning CONTEST and Pizza Party

Saturday, September 19 at 12 pm

Complete a *Northstar* online class by Wednesday, September 16, and you will be eligible for raffle prizes and a pizza party. Get started at *Northstar Digital Literacy* on the library's Research Databases webpage to set up an account. Questions? Contact the Information Desk.

NORTHSTAR DIGITAL LITERACY
A program of Literacy Minnesota

Digital Literacy Workshops

Select Fridays from 10:30 – 11:15 am

Join us for one or more *Northstar* online classes, with support from an in-person instructor. Limit 4.

October 9 – Basic Computer Skills
October 16 – Phone and Tablet Skills
October 23 – Internet Basics
November 6 – Windows 11
November 13 – Social Media Basics
December 4 – Information Literacy
December 11 – Cybersecurity Basics

**Sponsored by AgeOptions.*

AGEOPTIONS®

Touch Grass: Simple Tech Tools for Healthier Screen Habits

Sunday, October 25 at 2 pm

Do you find that you can't go five minutes without looking at a screen? Mike Gershbein from Very Smart People will share simple, practical ways to use everyday tools, apps, and settings to help you build a healthier relationship with your devices.

Banking Online Safely: A Demonstration

Wednesday, November 4 at 2 pm

A beginner's guide to online banking! Learn how to safely access your accounts online, pay bills electronically, and recognize common scams and fraud attempts from this demonstration by instructor Ann Stovall.

Technology Tutorials

Need assistance with a phone, tablet, or computer? Fill out a quick form at the Information Desk or give us a call to set up a 20-minute appointment.

Learning Express Database

This database offers basic online classes and, for advanced users, AWS cloud-skills training that can help prepare you for a cloud developer career in as little as one year. AMPPL Cardholders only.

Adults

Registration for adult programs begins September 1 unless otherwise stated. Visit Alsipmerrionette.librarycalendar.com or call 708.371.5666 to register.

AgeOptions Benefits Enrollment

Tuesday, September 8 at 10 am

Please join AgeOptions to learn about the money-saving programs available to older adults with low incomes. Specialists will help you apply for benefits after the presentation. Programs include SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, and Extra Help.

Fall Chair Yoga with Adela

Friday, September 11 at 2 pm

Try a gentle chair yoga class with Silver Sneakers-certified instructor, Adela Alverado.

Needle Felting: Dryer Ball

Wednesday, September 23 at 11 am

Fiber Artist Barb Simon teaches needle felting on reusable dryer balls. Limit of 10.

Tatreez Embroidery

Monday, September 28 at 6 pm

Artist Haneen Awad teaches the art of Palestinian tatreez embroidery. Limit of 20.

Winter Weather Driving

Wednesday, September 30 at 6 pm

Prepare for winter driving this fall with Robert Boyle, a Master Automotive Technician. Learn key tips for vehicle prep, safe driving, and handling snow and ice with confidence.

Morbid History

Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30 pm

This lively presentation follows cemetery enthusiast Lorrisa as she shares surprising true tales of bizarre, little-known history, from smuggled saints to hidden graves and body-snatching resurrectionists.

Beginner Spanish Series

Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15 & 22 from 10 am - 11 am

A four-week beginner course focused on practical speaking, listening, and everyday vocabulary. Sessions build weekly with guided practice, pronunciation support, and take-home review sheets to help participants gain confidence using basic Spanish in everyday situations. Registration begins Tuesday, September 1. Limit of 10.

Death Doula

Saturday, October 10 at 11 am

What if preparing for the end of life could bring more peace today? Join Cari Rogers for an introduction to end-of-life doulas from what they do, how they support families, and how planning ahead can ease a difficult time.

All-Day Fiber Art Buffet

Saturday, October 10 at Select Time Slots

Sign up for a one-on-one tutorial about whichever fiber art you're interested in! Try knitting, crocheting, sashiko mending, or spinning on a drop spindle. Registration begins Tuesday, September 15. Timeslots limited.

Boss of Bosses: Giancana's Chicago

Saturday, October 17 at 2 pm

The Mob's new boss is ready to take the reins of the organization he has served for years. Standing in his way is the cradle of American power – the federal government. Who will prevail? Don't miss *Murder, Mayhem and the Mob, Part 3* with historian Clarence Goodman.

Adults

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AARP Smart Driver Course

Monday, October 19 & Tuesday, October 20 from 10 am – 2 pm

A refresher course for drivers 50+ reviewing safe driving skills, traffic law updates, and strategies for age-related changes. Participants receive the Smart Driver Guidebook and may qualify for auto insurance discounts. Must attend both sessions to receive certificate. Registration required through the library. Limit of 24. Fee: $20 AARP members / $25 non-members. Cash or check only (payable to AARP).

Inkle Loom Weaving

Wednesday, October 21 from 9 am - 4 pm

Learn how to weave a band on an inkle loom with Jennie Hawkey of Hopewell Weaving in this all-day workshop. Limit of 10.

Dia de Los Muertos Altar

Thursday, October 22 at 5:30 pm

Honor a loved one by decorating a mini frame Ofrenda. Bring a 2x3 (wallet size) picture for the frame. AMPPL Cardholders only. Limit of 16.

Fantasy Reader Survival Kit

Pickups begin Monday, October 26

Get ready for the release of Book 6 on October 27 with a reading-all-night survival kit. Limit of 12.

Haunted Route 66 with Bob Trzeciak and Jake Petrizzo

Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 pm

Route 66 is famous not only for its history but also for reports of paranormal activity. Bob Trzeciak and Jake Petrizzo will share haunted locations, intriguing stories, and demonstrate investigative equipment and techniques used to research unexplained phenomena at Route 66 landmarks and other historic sites.

Take and Make Mosaic Coasters

Pickups begin Monday, November 2

Create your own mini masterpiece with this DIY Mosaic Coaster Kit. This relaxing hands-on craft lets you recreate one of the world's most beloved artworks using colorful mosaic tiles on a wooden coaster base. Limit of 10.

Retirement and Taxes: How to Make Your Money Last Longer

Tuesday, November 3 at 6:30 pm

Retired or planning for retirement? Join us for an educational seminar on how taxes can affect your retirement income. Learn about Social Security, 401(k)s, IRAs, and other income sources, and discover strategies to understand today's retirement tax rules better.

Needle Felting: Pumpkin

Wednesday, November 4 at 11 am

Join fiber artist Barb Simon for a needle felting class where we learn how to make a cute fall pumpkin. Limit of 10.

McAllister's Battery

Saturday, November 14 at 10 am

Edward McAllister was one of the first Illinois Captains recruited at the outbreak of the Civil War. Learn more about him, the 1st IL Light Artillery Co. D, and their heroic efforts to preserve the Union. Please note: All veterans and their family members will be recognized.

Adults

Español

Caja de Libros Trimestral

Puede recoger empezando el Lunes, 28 de Septiembre

Cada caja contendrá un libro y una manualidad, un dulce o una sorpresa relacionada con la historia. El tema cambiará cada trimestre. El tema de este trimestre es Ciencia Ficción. Participantes en cualquier otra caja de libros no son elegibles. Límite 6.

Día de Los Muertos

Jueves 22 de Octubre a las 5:30 pm

Honra a un ser querido decorando una pequeña ofrenda enmarcada. Trae una fotografía de 2x3 (tamaño billetera) para el marco.

Llévatelo y Hazlo: Mini Museo

Puede recoger empezando el Lunes, 16 de Noviembre

Crea un museo en miniatura con tus fotos y recuerdos favoritos. Usando marcos decorativos, pequeñas figuras y una caja de sombras, diseñarás un recuerdo único para tu casa.

Take and Make: Mini Museum

Pickups begin Monday, November 16

Create a miniature museum featuring your favorite photos and memories. Using decorative frames, tiny figures, and a shadow box, you'll design a unique keepsake to display at home. Limit of 12.

Painting with Heaven Newsom

Tuesday, November 17 at 6:30 pm

Join artist Heaven Newsom for a step-by-step painting workshop where you'll create your own artwork. Limit of 20.

Metal Embossing

Wednesday, November 18 at 7 pm

Upcycle a tin can and transform it into a planter with the antique look of tin ceiling tiles. Limit of 10.

Cricut Gift Making

Saturday, November 21 (Select Time Slots)

Reserve a 30-minute time slot to personalize a cosmetic bag, sketchbook, cup, or stuffed animal. Please register for either Session 1 or Session 2. Participants may complete up to two different projects (one of each type), depending on time and available supplies. Projects must be completed during your scheduled session. Registration begins Monday, November 2. One participant per registration.

Adults

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Recurring Programs

Quarterly Book Box

Pickups begin Monday, September 21

Each box will contain a novel and a craft, treat, or a surprise connected to the story. This quarter's theme is Science Fiction. Limit of 20.

Cricut Club

Select Thursdays at 5:30 pm

A tutorial of the craft will be given, and assistance will be provided throughout. Basic computer skills required. Please register for only one session per month.

September 3 – Fall Doormat
September 10 – Fall Doormat
October 1 – Scrap Fabric Ghost Banner
October 15 – Scrap Fabric Ghost Banner
November 5 – Pie Gift Box
November 12 – Pie Gift Box

Cricut on a Saturday

Saturday, September 12 at 1 pm

Pick from a variety of pre-selected past projects to create. Help will be available. Participants must have prior experience with Design Space. Limit of 6.

Makerspace

Select Mondays at 6 pm

Use the sublimation printer, T-shirt press, or other tools for crafting. Limit of 10.

September 14
October 12
November 2

Tuesday Morning Movies

Fourth Tuesday of every month at 9:30 am

Light refreshments provided.

September 22 – Project Hail Mary
October 27 – The Sheep Detectives
November 24 – Pressure

Writing Roundup

Select dates at 2 pm

Join us to do the writing of your choice in a supportive environment. Optional time for sharing our work at the end. Light refreshments provided.

Wednesday, September 9
Wednesday, October 7
Thursday, November 12

Bring Your Craft to the Movies Night

Tuesday, November 10 at 5:30 pm

Bring your craft project as we leave the lights on to watch and create! Light refreshments provided. Limit of 24.

Fall Open Mic

Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 pm

Come share your creativity or join us to watch and be entertained! If you'd like to read a story or perform music, please contact the Information Desk.

Monthly Reading Challenge

You are invited to read a book following our monthly theme. Submit your entry at the information desk or online to collect a participation prize.

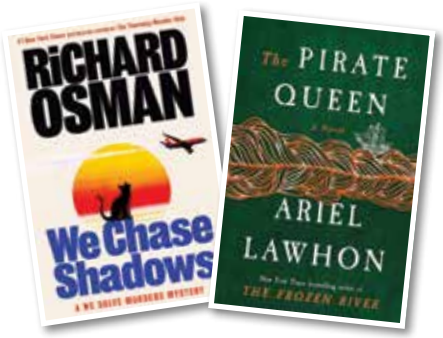
September: Read a genre you don't usually read.
October: Scary vibes.
November: Read a book with "and" in the title.

Memory Lab

Learn how to turn your favorite old family photos, home recordings, and video cassettes into digital keepsakes during an individual 30-minute tutorial. Each person may schedule up to two tutorials per season.

Adults

New Fall Titles



SEPTEMBER

Ariel Lawhon ..... *The Pirate Queen*
Jodi Picoult ..... *Hollow Bones*
Elin Hilderbrand ..... *The Thoroughbreds*
James Patterson ..... *The Munich Affair*
Richard Osman ..... *We Chase Shadows*
John Green ..... *Hollywood Ending*
Danielle Steel ..... *Ruthless*
John Grisham ..... *The French Illusion*

OCTOBER

Barbara Kingsolver ..... *Partita*
James Patterson ..... *The Girl in the Lake*
Stephen King ..... *Other Worlds Than These*
Freida McFadden ..... *The Witch*
Abby Jimenez ..... *A Married Little Christmas*
Louise Penny ..... *Miss Wolcott's Ghost*
Walter Mosley ..... *Hanging and Burning*
Michael Connelly ..... *The Hollow*

NOVEMBER

David Baldacci ..... *All In*
Janet Evanovich ..... *Split Second*
Nora Roberts ..... *Birth of the Witch*
Rebecca Yarros ..... *Peculiar Stars*
Danielle Steel ..... *Celebration*
Heather Graham ..... *Destiny Rising*
James Patterson ..... *The Murder Trial*

Book Social

Select Saturdays at 1 pm

Join us to share about a book you enjoyed or just listen and gather a list for your fall entertainment. Light refreshments provided.

September 5
October 3
November 7
December 5

20/30s Book Club

Saturday, October 24 at 1 pm

Join our book club made for readers in their 20s and 30s. We'll chat about great reads, meet new people, and enjoy a welcoming space for lively discussion.

Genre: Horror

Alsip-Merrionette Park Public Library District
11960 S. Pulaski Rd., Alsip, IL 60803
ph 708.371.5666

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Connect With Us

Book Fair for Adults

Saturday, October 24 from 10 am – 4 pm

Ages 21+. Relive the magic of the school book fair. Bookstores like Love's Sweet Arrow, Amazing Fantasy and Comics, Salty Books and Beans, and more will be selling books alongside local artists with jewelry and gifts for sale. Light refreshments provided.

Heritage II Concert: I Feel Good! Hits of the 60's

Tuesday, September 29 at 12 pm

Join Matt and Cynthia Gruel of Nostalgia Entertainment for a lively cabaret celebrating the unforgettable sounds of the 1960s. Through music and storytelling, they bring to life hits made famous by James Brown, The Beatles, The Beach Boys, The Marvelettes, Frank Sinatra, Louis Armstrong, Neil Diamond, and more. **Program will take place at Heritage 2 Clubhouse 3715, W 123rd Place in Alsip**. Registration begins Tuesday, September 1. Limit of 50.

Homework Help and More

From free online tutoring and databases to our Library of Things collection, we have plenty to help you learn this school year! Explore free online tutoring with Tutor.com, learning tools like ABCmouse and LOTE4Kids, plus our Library of Things featuring science kits, robots, musical instruments, puzzles, and more. All free with your library card!

Library Hours

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thur..... 9 am - 9 pm
Friday & Saturday ..... 9 am - 5 pm
Sundays ..... 1 pm - 5 pm
Drive-up book return open 24 hours

Library Closed

Labor Day Weekend ..... September 6, 7
Thanksgiving Eve ..... November 25 (closed at 5pm)
Thanksgiving Day ..... November 26

Board Meetings

Library Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 pm (September 8, October 13, and November 10). Minutes and agendas are posted on the library website. Library Board members are elected by residents of Alsip, Merrionette Park, and Garden Homes. Library board positions are unpaid. Meetings are open to the public.

Library Board

Susana Leyva, *President*
Therese McLaughlin, *Vice President*
Natalie Opila, *Treasurer*
Rebecca Dujsik, *Secretary*
Mary E. McKendree, *Trustee*
Mary Jane Schneider, *Trustee*
Judy Buergel, *Trustee*