

# Park Ridge Public Library

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Illustrated by Kerstin Kay



# Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030

## A Message From The Library Director

### Looking Ahead: Our Next Chapter at the Park Ridge Public Library

The Park Ridge Public Library is pleased to announce the adoption of its 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, approved by the Library Board on August 19, 2025. This plan will guide the Library's priorities and investments over the next four years.



*Joanna Bertucci, Library Director*

Developed with extensive input from residents, community partners, and staff, the plan outlines a clear vision for how the Library will continue to evolve as a welcoming, connected, and innovative center for learning and discovery.

The 2026 - 2030 Strategic Plan is organized around four key initiatives that will guide our work:

- 1 Optimize Spaces
- 2 Invest in Resources and Staff
- 3 Align Programming, Services, and Outreach
- 4 Increase Community Awareness and Support

Beginning in January 2026, we'll launch the first year of work under this new plan. Highlights for Year One include:

- An app that will make it easier than ever to browse, borrow materials, and register for programs from your mobile device.
- A comprehensive review of our collections to ensure our materials continue to reflect the needs and interests of the Park Ridge community.
- A space-planning study to explore how we can better organize and optimize our building to support modern library services and collections.

Together, these projects lay the foundation for long-term growth and innovation—ensuring the Library continues to meet the needs of today's users while preparing for tomorrow's opportunities.

Read or download the full plan and brochure on our website or pick up a printed copy at any service desk. As we begin this exciting new chapter, we invite you to stay engaged and be a part of shaping the Library's future.



On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Library staff, thank you for your continued support and belief in the power of public libraries to inspire, inform, and bring people together.

## MISSION

At the heart of a vibrant community, the Park Ridge Library connects people with information, ideas, and one another.

## VISION

Inspire a future where knowledge, ideas, and connections empower every individual to grow, thrive, and succeed.

## VALUES

### Access

We ensure open, equitable access to ideas and information, defending intellectual freedom and providing a space where all feel safe and empowered to learn.

### Education and Lifelong Learning

We support a culture of learning by providing reliable resources, dedicated spaces, and opportunities for human connection and discovery at every stage of life.

### Collaboration

We work together—supporting our patrons and building lasting partnerships to strengthen our community.

### Community

We build trust through reliability, support, and understanding.

### Innovation

We tirelessly explore all opportunities for improving our collections, services, and the patron experience.

Park Ridge Public Library

# Winter Reading

December 19, 2025 - February 1, 2026

Get your to-be-read stack ready. We will have challenges for kids, teens, and adults, with great prizes in store.

*Prizes are generously donated by the Friends of the Library.*

Watch our social media, newsletters, and website for more details.

# Our Next Chapter



## Optimize Spaces

**Goal:** Pursue facility improvements

### Activities:

- Update the Library's interior spaces by working with staff and/or design professionals to develop options, plans, and cost estimates
- Explore opportunities for better utilization of the North Lawn (Touhy/Prospect) in collaboration with the City of Park Ridge
- Explore the viability of a future building expansion project and potential support within the community

**Outcome:** Dynamic Library spaces that serve the community with excellence, both today and in the future



## Align programming, services, and outreach

**Goal:** Advance and adapt the Library's services, programs, and outreach

### Activities:

- Develop engaging programs and services tailored to younger adults (20s and 30s)
- Expand multi-and intergenerational programming to foster community connection
- Explore and pilot artificial intelligence (AI) programs and services
- Evaluate new services that respond to community needs and enhance convenience
- Pursue partnerships to broaden outreach and services for seniors and retirees

**Outcome:** Engaging programs, responsive services, and targeted outreach that reflect community needs and deliver lasting impact



## Invest in resources and staff

**Goal:** Identify opportunities to invest in materials, technology, staffing, and resources

### Activities:

- Improve digital access and ease of use of the Library and its resources
- Evaluate digital materials spending to reduce wait times on popular materials
- Utilize data and feedback to maximize the use of physical materials
- Empower Library staff through continuous learning to drive excellence and sustain a high-performing team

**Outcome:** Seamlessly integrated resources and high-performing staff poised to exceed community expectations and cultivate meaningful connections



## Increase community awareness and support

**Goal:** Increase community awareness and strengthen partnerships to grow appreciation, engagement, and support for Library services

### Activities:

- Establish a Library Foundation to boost charitable giving while also supporting the growth of the Friends of the Library
- Increase investment in community awareness and engagement initiatives
- Leverage community engagement to grow volunteerism
- Strengthen and expand partnerships with local organizations

**Outcome:** A well-informed community that embraces the Library's impact and invests in its continued success



The  
**Palace  
Project**

## We have a new way to read ebooks and audiobooks!

Beginning in early December, Park Ridge Library cardholders can begin using the Palace Project app to access ebooks and audiobooks. This app will take the place of Boundless.

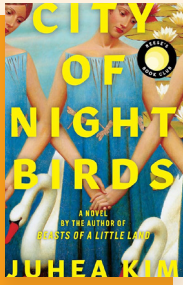
Please watch our website, social media, and newsletter for the latest news on this exciting new offering.

As always, if you need assistance, ask a Library staff member.

# Films and Book Discussions for Adults

Book discussions will be at the Library in the Third Floor Meeting Room OR available live over Zoom. Choose how you would like to join and sign up on our website or by calling 847-720-3280. Books are available two weeks before the discussion at the Reader Services desk.

## FICTION GROUP R

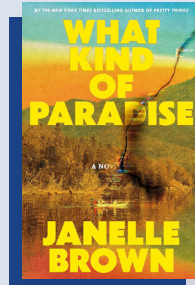


*City of Night Birds*  
by Juhea Kim  
VIRTUAL: Tuesday,  
January 13 | 7 p.m.  
IN PERSON: Thursday,  
January 29 | 10 a.m.

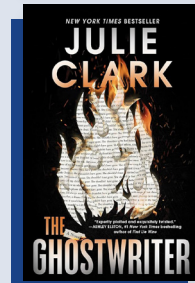


*Broken Country*  
by Clare Leslie Hall  
VIRTUAL: Tuesday,  
February 10 | 7 p.m.  
IN PERSON: Thursday,  
February 26 | 10 a.m.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING GROUP R

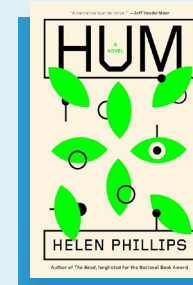


*What Kind of Paradise*  
by Janelle Brown  
Wednesday,  
January 21 | 7 p.m.



*The Ghostwriter*  
by Julie Clark  
Wednesday,  
February 18 | 7 p.m.

## SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY GROUP R

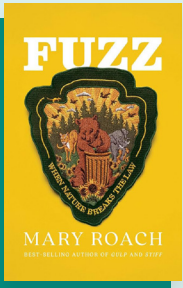


*Hum*  
by Helen Phillips  
Wednesday,  
January 7 | 7 p.m.



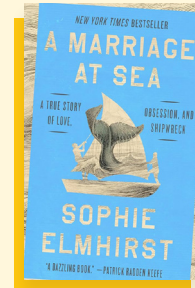
*Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil*  
by V.E. Schwab  
Wednesday,  
February 4 | 7 p.m.

## GREEN READS R



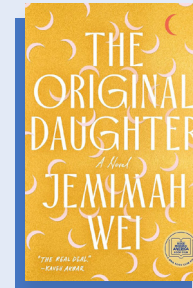
*Fuzz: When Nature Breaks the Law*  
by Mary Roach  
In partnership with  
Go Green Park Ridge  
Tuesday, January 27  
7 p.m.

## NONFICTION GROUP R



*A Marriage at Sea*  
by Sophie Elmhirst  
Friday, February 13  
10 a.m.

## DIRECTOR'S CHOICE R



*The Original Daughter*  
by Jemimah Wei  
Wednesday,  
February 25  
7 p.m.



**FILMS** - These movies will be screened at the Library in the First Floor Meeting Room.



*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* D  
[PG, 114 min.]  
Tuesday, December 16  
1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
Starring Judy Greer



*The Fantastic Four: First Steps* D  
[PG-13, 115 min.]  
Tuesday, January 20  
1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
Starring Pedro Pascal  
and Vanessa Kirby



*The Roses* D  
[R, 105 min.]  
Tuesday, February 17  
1 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
Starring Olivia Coleman  
and Benedict Cumberbatch



December 19, 2025 - February 1, 2026

Read four titles of your choice between December 19 and February 1 to earn a chance to win a gift card to a local business.

Prizes sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Complete bonus activities for more chances to win!

Park Ridge Public Library  
**Winter Reading**

# The Studio and Media Lab for Adults



## R Orientation

Patrons must complete this mandatory orientation before booking appointments in The Studio.

Open to Park Ridge Library cardholders only. *Limit 3 people per session.*

Tuesdays: 6 p.m. | Thursdays: 11 a.m.

## THE STUDIO CLASSES

All classes are free and open to Park Ridge Library cardholders only. **Must be comfortable using a computer for Laser Cutter classes.**

Registration opens four weeks in advance. If you are unable to attend, please notify the Library at 847-720-3230.

*\* Limit of 1 laser cutter class per month.*

## R Laser Cutter Take & Make Craft Project: Pre-Cut Little Free Library Ornament Kit

To maximize Studio availability for patrons this December, we are offering a pre-cut Little Free Library Ornament Kit for this month's craft. Build, decorate and fill your ornament with miniature books for your holiday decor! *After registration, if you are unable to use the kit, please notify the Library at 847-720-3230. Limit 20 kits. Pick-up beginning Monday, December 1*

## R Take & Make Craft Project: Waterless Snow Globe Kit

To maximize Studio availability for patrons this December, we are offering a waterless snow globe kit for you to take home and assemble. *After registration, if you are unable to use the kit, please notify the Library at 847-720-3230. Limit 20 kits. Pick-up beginning Monday, December 1*



Scan the QR code to register for programs!

## R Laser Cutter 101 (Beginner): Trio of Engraved Silicone Bracelets

Start the year with new bling! In this introductory class to the Library's Epilog Laser Cutter, you will engrave a trio of personalized Silicone Bracelets.

*Limit 1 person per class.*

Saturday, January 3 | Nine half-hour slots from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## R Silhouette 101

Watch a demo of the Silhouette Studio software. Learn how to find and upload images. *Limit 4 people per class.*

Thursday, January 8 | 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 13 | 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 22 | 2:30 p.m.

## R Laser Cutter 201 (Intermediate): Engraved Rubber Hockey Puck

It's Hockey Season! Engrave a custom Hockey Puck paperweight for yourself or for your favorite little hockey player.

*Prerequisite: Laser Cutter 101. Limit 4 people per class.*

Thursday, January 8 | 6:30 p.m.

Friday, January 9 | 11 a.m.

Thursday, January 15 | 6:30 p.m.

## R Cricut Mug

Decorate a Cricut mug using printed sublimation papers and the Cricut Mug Press. *Limit 4 people per class.*

Thursday, February 5 | 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 10 | 2:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 19 | 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 25 | 7 p.m.

## R Laser Cutter 201 (Intermediate): Wooden Tic-Tac-Toe Traveling Game

Laser cut and assemble a Wooden Tic-Tac-Toe Traveling Game. *Prerequisite:*

*Laser Cutter 101. Limit 4 people per class.*

Thursday, February 5 | 6:30 p.m.

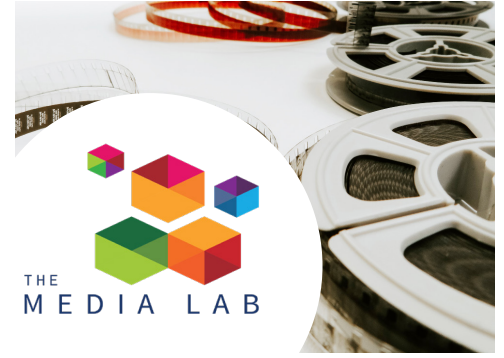
Thursday, February 12 | 6:30 p.m.

Friday, February 13 | 11 a.m.

## R Laser Cutter 101 (Beginner): Pair of Engraved Stemless Wine Glasses

For your sweetie or your bestie, learn how to use the laser cutter's rotary attachment to engrave a pair of Stemless Wine Glasses. *Limit 1 person per class.*

Saturday, February 7 | Nine half-hour slots from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



## R Orientation

Patrons must complete this mandatory orientation before booking appointments in The Media Lab. *Open to Park Ridge Library cardholders only.*

Tuesdays: 7 p.m. | Saturdays: 10 a.m.

## THE MEDIA LAB CLASSES

All classes are free. Open to Park Ridge cardholders only. *Limit 3 people per class. Registration opens four weeks in advance.*

## R Archiving Your Photos, Slides, and Negatives

Take those boxes of old photos, slides and negatives and digitize them.

Thursdays: December 4, January 8, February 5 | 7 - 8 p.m.

## R Converting Home Videos to Digital

Learn the steps to convert your old VHS home videos to DVD.

Thursdays: December 11, January 15, February 12 | 7 - 8 p.m.

## R Digitizing Audio Cassettes and Records

Convert your old audiocassette recordings and records to MP3 or CD using the TEAC machine.

Thursdays: January 22, February 19 7 - 8 p.m.

## R Converting 8mm and Super 8 Home Videos to Digital

Learn the steps to digitize your 8mm and Super 8 film.

Thursdays: December 18, January 29, February 26 | 7 - 8 p.m.

## SCORE Small Business Mentoring Sessions

Mentors from SCORE are available to advise small business owners. *Free.* Call 847-720-3230 to register.



## ILLINOIS LIBRARIES PRESENT

These programs will be held over Zoom.

These webinars are made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a Department of the Office for the Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

**Bringing History to Life with Jonathan Eig**  
Tuesday, January 13  
7 p.m.



**Still Afraid of the Dark: An Evening with R.L. Stine**  
Tuesday, February 24  
7 p.m.



**Tiny Art Show**  
Show off your artistic skill in the Park Ridge Public Library Tiny Art Show! Sign up to receive a mini art kit, create your masterpiece at home, and turn it in for display in our second floor display case. *Adults only. While supplies last. Supply pick-up starts December 30*  
Display dates: January 6 - 31

## AFTERNOON PROGRAMS

**R Genealogy 101**  
Are you interested in exploring your family tree but don't know where to start? Begin with the Library's digital genealogy resources. *In person. Limit one session per person. Limit 10.*  
Wednesdays: December 3, January 7, February 4 | 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**D Drop-in Help Desk**  
Volunteers from the Maine South Key Club will be available for tech questions related to smartphones, tablets, and laptops. *In person.*  
Saturdays: December 6, January 3, February 7 | 10 a.m. - Noon

**R Dementia Caregivers Support Group**  
Join the Center of Concern at the Library for a safe place to learn, exchange strategies, and meet other caregivers coping with Alzheimer's or another dementia. *Limit 20. Light refreshments served. In person.*  
Mondays: December 8, January 12, February 9 | 10 a.m.

**R Brain Boosters**  
Keep your brain sharp and reconnect with your neighbors in this interactive, collaborative program of brain puzzles and discussion starters. *Limit 30. In person. In partnership with the Center of Concern. Sponsored by the 20th Century Club.*  
Thursdays: December 11, January 8, February 12 | 1 p.m.

Scan the QR code to register for programs!



**R Chair Yoga**  
Stretch, breathe, and meditate your way to renewed energy with Sun & Moon instructor Joan McGee. *No experience necessary. Hybrid.*

Wednesdays | 2 p.m.  
*Joan is on-site December 3 & 17, January 7 & 21, February 4 & 18.*

## CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

**R Holiday Flower Arranging**  
Join Paulina Jakubiec of All in Bloom Designs as she demonstrates a selection of holiday-themed flower arrangements. *In person.*  
Tuesday, December 9 | 2 p.m.

**R Family Concert: "A Charlie Brown Christmas" with the Chris White Trio**  
The Chris White Trio channels Vince Guaraldi to perform the full 1965 soundtrack of "A Charlie Brown Christmas," from "O Tannenbaum" to "The Christmas Song." *In person.*  
Wednesday, December 17 | 7 p.m.



**R Hollywood Valentine: Married at the Movies**  
Celebrate love with Hollywood! Film historian Annette Bochenek returns to recount memorable classic film wedding moments—on and off the screen. *Hybrid.*  
Tuesday, February 10 | 2 p.m.



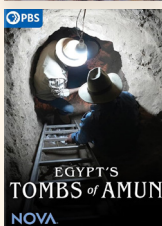
**R Mobile DMV**  
Don't want to wait in line at the DMV? A representative of the Secretary of State will be on-site at the Library to help you save time! Services offered include Real ID, driver's license update and renewal, plates renewal, vision screening, organ/tissue donor registry, and voter registration. *In person.*  
Friday, December 12 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**R Smartphone Basics**  
Learn the basics of using your touchscreen device such as screen navigation, essential functions and applications, and more. **Bring your own tablet or smartphone device.** *In person. One session per person. Limit 10.*  
Wednesdays: December 17, January 21, February 18 | 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

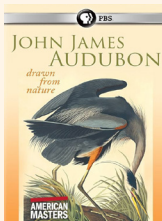
## FRIDAY MORNING COFFEE CLUB



**Christmas Tree Ship**  
Friday, December 19  
10 a.m.  
*Limit 40.*



**Egypt's Tombs of Amun**  
Friday, January 16  
10 a.m.  
*Limit 40.*



**John James Audubon**  
Friday, February 20  
10 a.m.  
*Limit 40.*



- D** **DAR Genealogy Assistance**  
Representatives of the 21st Star Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are available to answer your genealogy questions. *In person.*  
Thursdays: January 15, February 19  
9 a.m. - Noon

- R** **Park Ridge Page Pals**  
Adults 18+ with intellectual and developmental disabilities are invited to read and socialize in this book club. *For more information, contact Kelly at kmayer@parkridgelibrary.org or call 847-720-3285. In-person.*  
Monday, February 16 | 3 p.m.



## EVENING PROGRAMS

- R** **The Art and Architecture of Bruce Goff**  
Architect Sidney Robinson will speak about Bruce Goff's fantastical vision, including the home he designed in Park Ridge. *In partnership with the Historic Preservation Commission. Hybrid.*  
Tuesday, December 2 | 7 p.m.

- D** **Stitch Night**  
Fiber artists of all levels, join us for an evening of free crafting advice and lively conversation. *In person.*  
Thursdays: December 4, January 8,  
February 5 | 7 p.m.

- R** **Just Jane: A Visit with Jane Austen**  
Debra Miller visits as Jane Austen in the autumn of 1815 and delves into the personal life of one of the most beloved and intriguing novelists of the 19th century. *In person.*  
Thursday, December 18 | 7 p.m.

- R** **Library Pub Quiz**  
Do you have a head full of useless facts? Show them off by joining us for Library Pub Quiz. *Held at Harp & Fiddle, 110 Main Street. Limit 50. In person.*  
Tuesdays: January 27, February 24  
6:30 p.m.

- R** **Park Ridge Writers Group**  
Join the Library's writing group for positive critique and support. *Limit 20. In person.*  
Wednesday, February 11 | 6:30 p.m.

## AUTHOR TALKS

- R** **Why I Love Horror: A Conversation with Local Horror Authors**  
Join Becky Siegel Spratford for a panel discussion with local authors. *Books will be available for purchase from New Book Joy. In person.*  
Wednesday, January 14  
7 p.m.



- R** **Loud and Clear with Brian Anderson**  
New author Brian Anderson will discuss his extensive research about the Grateful Dead's wall of sound and their quest for audio perfection. *Books will be available for purchase from New Book Joy. In person.*  
Thursday, January 29  
7 p.m.



## HEALTH AND SAFETY

- R** **Mindful Movement**  
Join Stephanie Kaczynski, certified Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction teacher, for a session that combines guided meditation, qigong, and yoga. *No experience necessary. In person.*  
Tuesday, January 13 | 2 p.m.

- R** **In Our Own Voices: A Mental Health Conversation**  
Presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, this conversation showcases leaders with lived experience talking openly about what it's like to have a mental health condition. *In partnership with the Community Health Commission. In person.*  
Thursday, January 22 | 7 p.m.

- R** **Adult Self-Defense Workshop**  
Learn effective self defense with Strictly Self Defense instructor Lindsey Daehnke. *In person.*  
Thursday, February 26 | 6:30 p.m.

- R** **Transforming Your Space with the KonMari Method®**  
Spark joy this year with KonMari consultant Charmaine Nichols, whose advice and tips will help you tidy and simplify. Earn a chance to win a free tidying lesson! *Hybrid.*  
Tuesday, February 3 | 7 p.m.

## GLOBAL NEIGHBORS

- R** **Global Neighbors: Central Africa**  
Oakton College professor Terence Sinabajije will speak about his early childhood in Burundi as well as his experiences in refugee camps in Tanzania and Zambia. *Refreshments will be served. In person. Sponsored by Marion's Mark.*  
Thursday, February 12 | 7 p.m.

- R** **Echoes of Africa: Art and Folktales**  
Celebrate Black History Month with a vibrant program of storytelling, music, and cultural traditions led by Kenyan educator and storyteller Elizabeth Kahura. *Virtual.*  
Thursday, February 12 | 7 p.m.

- R** **Making the Most of Social Security**  
Stacy Bromann of The Dala Group will provide details on strategies that can provide monthly lifetime Social Security benefits higher than the standard filing options. *Hybrid.*  
Thursday, February 19 | 7 p.m.

## CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

- R** **Craft Workshop: Polish Stars**  
Create a Polish star ornament, or jezyk, with artist Eva Penar. **Supplies included.** *Limit 15. Sponsored by Marion's Mark. In-person.*  
Tuesday, December 23 | 6:30 p.m.

- R** **Craft Workshop: Gemstone Jewelry Making**  
Join jewelry artist Sherri Ewing to create custom jewelry using genuine gemstones on stretch cord, beading wire, or memory wire. **Supplies included.** *Limit 20. Sponsored by Marion's Mark. In person.*  
Thursday, January 15 | 7 p.m.

Middle & High School Programs | Grades 6 – 12 *unless otherwise noted.*

## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL



Park Ridge Public Library

# Winter Reading

December 19, 2025 - February 1, 2026

Get cozy with a good book this winter and join Winter Reading! Simply log your reading each day online at [parkridgelib.beanstack.org](http://parkridgelib.beanstack.org) to start earning rewards. For every 10 days you read, you'll receive a sticker and virtual raffle ticket. Reach 20 days of reading and you earn a prize book!

Want even more chances to win one of our cozy prize baskets?

Complete fun activities in the Library to rack up additional raffle tickets.



**R** **RPG & Board Game Club**  
 Teen gamers, unite! Join an ongoing RPG adventure or explore various exciting tabletop games with other passionate players (*no prior experience required*). Check our online calendar for dates. Registration opens one week before the program.  
 Select Sundays | 1 - 4:45 p.m.

**Teen Take & Create**  
 Stop by The Loft to pick up a bag of supplies. Take your kit home or work on it in the Library! Supplies are limited.

**Starting December 1:**  
 Hot Cocoa Mugs

**Starting January 5:**  
 Snowpeople

**Starting February 2:**  
 Heart Puppies



## T(W)EENS IN THE STUDIO

GRADES 6-12

All supplies provided. Events limited to Park Ridge Library cardholders; registration opens one week in advance.

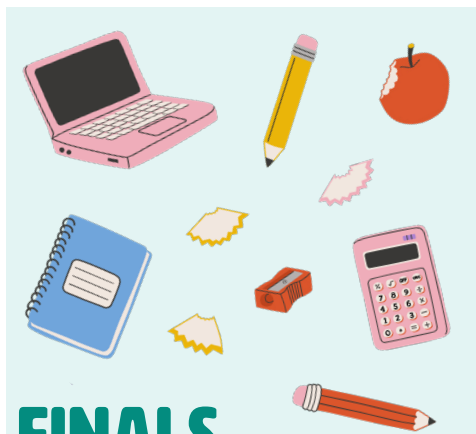
Join us and get crafty in the Library's makerspace!



**Recycled Book Snowflakes** **R**  
 Tuesday, January 6  
 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.



**Laser Engraved Water Bottles** **R**  
 Wednesday, February 18  
 5 - 6 p.m.



## FINALS STUDY SPACE **D**

Bring your backpacks and study snacks to join your friends for a productive study session! We'll also have some destressing activities on hand. Study, chill, snack, and recharge all in one spot.

**Monday, December 8 | 3 - 9 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, December 9 | 4 - 9 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, December 10 | 4 - 9 p.m.**  
**Thursday, December 11 | 3 - 9 p.m.**  
**Friday, December 12 | 3 - 6 p.m.**  
**Saturday, December 13 | 2 - 5 p.m.**  
**Sunday, December 14 | 12 - 5 p.m.**  
**Monday, December 15 | 3 - 9 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, December 16 | 4 - 9 p.m.**

## WHAT'S UP IN THE LOFT?

Stay up to date on all things Lofty in our monthly e-newsletter just for t(w)eens!



## 100 BOOKS BEFORE GRADUATION

Ready to dive into a reading adventure that will last all year? Join our 100 Books Before Graduation program and discover new stories, genres, and authors while working toward an epic goal: reading **100** books before you walk across that graduation stage!

Sign up today at the library or on [parkridgelib.beanstack.com](http://parkridgelib.beanstack.com) and get ready to turn the page on an unforgettable year of reading.

## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL



### R College Admissions and Test Prep Trends

#### Grades 9 - 12 and Caregivers

Whether we like it or not, standardized tests are used to assess a student's aptitude and achievement. When it comes to college-related standardized tests, it's often confusing how and when to prepare for them. Should students take one, the other, or both? Through this workshop, parents and students will learn how the SAT and ACT fits into the "big picture", how to know which tests to focus on, and the ideal timeline and strategy for preparing and making the most out of these tests. Parents and students will also be introduced to resources to support their needs.

*Presented by Excellerate Learning Studio.*  
Monday, December 1 | 7 p.m.

### R Candy Bingo | Grades 4 - 7

Come join us for a game of bingo where candy is the prize! *Please share any dietary restrictions or information when you register.*

Friday,  
December 19  
4 - 4:45 p.m.



### R (Un)popular Book Opinions Grades 7 - 12

Got a hot take or unpopular opinion about your favorite (or least favorite) books? Whether you're here to praise or roast, this is your chance to chat, debate, and discover new reads with fellow book lovers just in time for winter break. Bring your passion and opinions, and get ready for a lively book-and-snack-fueled conversation.

Monday, December 22 | 3:30 p.m.



Scan the QR code to register for programs!

### R Low Stakes Game Afternoon

Come join us for a chill afternoon of gaming. We'll have Uno, Jenga, Clue, and other games to choose from as well as snacks.



Friday, December 26 | 3 - 5 p.m.

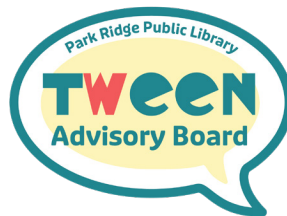
### R Winter White Landscape Art

Draw a solitary cottage snowscape in white pencil on black paper. Fill it with fanciful trees and add a wintery sentiment



in text. *Presented by Terri Murphy.*

Monday, December 29 | 3 - 4:30 p.m.



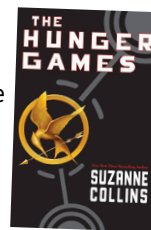
### R T(w)een Advisory Board

Got ideas? Come hang out, share your thoughts, and help shape what's happening this spring. We'll plan events, brainstorm new stuff, and talk about what you want to see at the library. It's a chill way to make a real impact — and yes, there will be snacks.

Wednesday, January 7 | 4 p.m.

### R Trivia: *The Hunger Games* | Grades 7 - 12

Are you a *Hunger Games* expert? Put your knowledge to the test by answering a range of questions about the books and movies. You might become the next trivia victor. May the odds be ever in your favor!



Friday, January 9 | 4 p.m.

### R T(w)een Preschool

Revisit the carefree activities from your early childhood - think imaginative play and toys. Get ready for a dose of nostalgia and fun... we might even bring out the parachute.

Friday, January 16 | 4:30 p.m.

## Blind Date with a Book



### D Blind Date with a Book

Looking for your next read? Take a chance in the Teen Loft! We've wrapped up some of our favorite middle and high school books so their covers (and titles) are a mystery. All you'll know is a few key words to help you pick any that catch your eye. Next step: check them out for a "date" at home, then unwrap to see if you've made a perfect match. No good chemistry? Visit the display and try again!

February 2 - March 2

### R T(w)een Detectives: Cold Case

The case has gone cold—and you're going to help us solve it! A small town is devastated by a murder of a local teen but they can't figure out who did it. We'll work together to analyze suspect profiles and digital evidence to uncover secrets and bring the killer to justice.



Friday, February 6 | 4 p.m.

### R T(w)een Spy School | Grades 7 - 12

Do you have what it takes to be a secret agent? Test your sneaking skills, sharpen your reflexes, and crack secret codes as you train to become the ultimate undercover operative.

Monday, February 16 | 3 - 4:30 p.m.

### R T(w)een Tasters

Taste and rate snacks from another country provided by Universal Yums! *Please share any dietary restrictions or information when you register.*



Friday, February 27 | 4 p.m.



## ARE YOU A TEEN WITH A LIBRARY CARD?

Stop by the Teen Loft desk and show us your card for a prize!



## BABY, TODDLER & PRESCHOOL

- T** **Merry Music Makers with Miss Megan** | Ages 0 - 5 *with caregiver*  
Tickets available 30 minutes before the program. Limit one session per family per month.  
Fridays: December 5, January 2, February 6 10 a.m. OR 10:45 a.m.
- D** **Tot Time Playdate**  
Ages 1 - 5 *with caregiver*  
Drop in with your toddler to play with toys and connect with friends.  
Tuesdays: December 23, February 3 10 a.m.
- D** **Bilingual Polish Storytime**  
Ages 2 and up *with caregiver*  
Zapraszamy na dwujęzyczne spotkanie z opowieściami, piosenkami i zabawami. Enjoy storytime in Polish and English!  
Fridays: January 9, February 13 | 10 a.m.
- D** **Bilingual Spanish Storytime**  
Ages 2 and up *with caregiver*  
Disfrute de un espacio de cuentos bilingüe con canciones, cuentos y otras actividades. Enjoy storytime in Spanish and English!  
Thursdays: January 22, February 26 10:30 a.m.
- T** **Developmental Speech Language Playgroup with Assential Therapies**  
Ages 18 months - 3 years *with caregiver*  
Playtime to promote language development and social skills in a supportive setting. Tickets available 30 minutes before the program.  
Fridays: January 23, February 27 9:30 a.m.
- R** **Adult & Tot Yoga** | Ages 3 - 5 *with caregiver*  
Wednesday, February 4 | 10 a.m.
- T** **Move & Groove with Twisted Tree Yoga** | Ages 2 and up *with caregiver*  
Develop coordination and self-expression through movement and music. Tickets available 30 minutes before the program.  
Wednesday, February 4 | 10:45 a.m.

# STORYTIME

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>T</b> <b>Hello, Baby!</b> Ages 0 - 14 months 9:30 a.m. OR 10:30 a.m. <i>Tickets available 30 minutes before the program.</i>	<b>D</b> <b>2s &amp; 3s Storytime</b> Ages 2 - 3 9:30 a.m.  <b>D</b> <b>Busy Bees Story and Playtime</b> Ages 1 - 3 10:30 a.m.	<b>D</b> <b>2s &amp; 3s Storytime</b> Ages 2 - 3 9:30 a.m.  <b>D</b> <b>Pre-K Storytime</b> Ages 3 - 5 10:30 a.m.	<b>D</b> <b>Busy Bees Story and Playtime</b> Ages 1 - 3 9:30 a.m.

*Caregiver must be present. No storytimes are held during the weeks of December 22, 29 and February 2. Check the calendar online or in the Children's Department for dates and alternative programs.*

- T** **Supported Storytime & Craft with Little Steps** | Ages 3 - 6 *with caregiver*  
Hosted by Little Steps Pediatric Therapy, this program targets age-appropriate fine motor and communication skills. Tickets available 30 minutes before the program. Siblings welcome.  
Thursday, February 5 | 11:30 a.m.

- R** **Family Concert: "A Charlie Brown Christmas" with the Chris White Trio**  
The Chris White Trio channels Vince Guaraldi to perform the full 1965 soundtrack of "A Charlie Brown Christmas," from "O Tannenbaum" to "The Christmas Song."  
Wednesday, December 17 | 7 p.m.

## FAMILIES

- R** **Family Story Stretches** | Families with kids ages 4 - 7  
Gather your family and roll out your mat for a story and some stretches!  
Saturdays: December 6, January 10 10 a.m.
- D** **Sensory-Friendly Hour** | Families  
Join us in the Children's Department for an adapted, accessible and sensory-friendly Library experience designed to support our neurodivergent friends and their families.  
Sundays: December 7, January 4, February 1 | 11 a.m. - Noon

- D** **Family Storytime & Craft**  
Saturdays: December 20, February 14 10:30 a.m.
- D** **Drop-In & Watch: Paw Patrol**  
Friday, December 26 10 a.m.



- D** **Noon Year's Eve Party**  
**T** Get a head start on ringing in 2026 at our Noon Year's Eve Party! Drop in to the Children's Department for activities and crafts. At noon, we'll move down to the big program room for a balloon drop countdown! **Tickets required for the balloon drop.** Tickets will be available beginning at 9 a.m. the day of the program.  
Tuesday, December 30 | 10 a.m. - Noon



Scan the QR code to register for programs!

- T** **Fairy Tale Storytime with The Ice Queen and The Ice Princess**  
Fairy tales come to life through stories and songs as royal sisters, The Ice Queen and The Ice Princess, join us from their far-away snowy kingdom.

*Tickets available 30 minutes before the program. Limit 1 session per family.*

*Caregiver must be present.*

Monday, February 2  
10 a.m. OR 10:45 a.m.

- T** **Firefly Family Theatre: Spark's Snow Day**

Join Spark as she learns all about snow, hibernation, and exciting winter activities like sledding and ice skating.

*Tickets available at the Children's Services desk beginning Saturday, February 14.*

Saturday, February 28 | 10 a.m.



- R** **Chess Scholars | Grades K - 8**  
Learn chess basics or perfect your skills with Chess Scholars.

Monday, January 12 | 4 p.m.

- R** **Science Heroes | Grades K - 5**  
Join Science Heroes on a mission to turn science into an adventure.

*Families welcome.*

Monday, January 19 | 2 p.m.

- R** **Read to the Dogs | Grades 1 - 5**

Reserve your space to read to a dog from Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy.

*This program is generously made possible by Marion's Mark. Registration opens one week in advance at time of program.*

Wednesdays: January 21, February 18  
15-minute sessions, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.



- R** **Chill and Create | Grades 3 - 5**  
Come explore the frosty side of creativity.

Tuesday, January 27 | 4 p.m.

- R** **Baby-Sitters Club: Friendship Fest Grades 3 - 5**

Are you a fan of the Baby-Sitters Club books? Come hang out with fellow fans for a fun-filled time with friendship-themed crafts and activities.

Tuesday, February 24 | 4 p.m.

Park Ridge Public Library

# Winter Reading

December 19, 2025 - February 1, 2026

Waddle into Winter Reading fun!

Read to earn raffle tickets and prizes.

- R** **Oodles of Doodles | Grades K - 2**  
Enjoy a story followed by an art project inspired by our book.

Mondays: December 1, January 5  
4 p.m.

- R** **Junior RPG Club | Grades 3 - 5**  
This intro to role-playing games is perfect for young adventurers looking to take off on their first quests.

*Registration opens one week in advance at time of program.*

Fridays: December 5, February 13  
4 - 5:45 p.m.

- R** **Candy Bingo | Grades 4 - 7**  
Come join us for a game of bingo where candy is the prize! *Please share any dietary restrictions or information when you register.*

Friday, December 19 | 4 - 4:45 p.m.

- D** **LEGOpalooza | Grades K and up**  
What can you create with our LEGO bricks?

Monday, December 22 | 2 p.m.

## COZY COMFORTS TREE

Share the love this season by donating new hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves to our Cozy Comforts Tree!

**NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 23**

All donations will be given to families seeking shelter through local WINGS locations. WINGS provides a pathway to independence for adults and children who are escaping domestic violence and abuse.

**New and unworn items only, please.**



## FEATURED EVENTS

- Operation Igloo: Find Our Penguin Friends!**



Join us in December and January and see if you can find all the penguins hiding in the Children's Services department!  
December 1 - January 31

- Stroll Park Ridge Winter Craft**

Make sure to add the Library to your list of stops along the Park Ridge Christmas Stroll! A craft will be available in the first floor meeting room. *While supplies last.*  
Saturday, December 13 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- Preschool and Enrichment Fair**

Join us at the Library to learn about many of the daycare, preschool, and enrichment facilities in the area. Representatives will be available to answer your questions and to help you find the right fit for your family.  
Saturday, January 24 | 10 a.m. - Noon

- PRETEND PLAY ZONE: CAFÉ**

The Pretend Play Zone returns in February! Stop by to serve up some delicious imaginary delights in our Pretend Café.  
February 1 - 28

- Flannel Board Fun**

Learn how to make fun and engaging stories out of felt to share in your classroom or at home.  
Wednesday, February 4 | 6 - 8 p.m.

Patron Services & Operator 847-825-3123  
Children's Services 847-720-3250  
Reference & Nonfiction 847-720-3230  
Reader Services 847-720-3280  
Teen Loft 847-720-3286

**Library Hours**

Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday: Noon to 5 p.m.

**Library Trustees**

Theresa Renaldi, President  
Danielle Powers, Vice President  
Michael Donahue, Treasurer  
Joshua Kiem, Secretary  
Anita DeFrank  
Kevin Haggerty  
Briana Jarnagin  
Gregg Rusk  
Deepika Thiagarajan

**Library Director** – Joanna Bertucci  
librarydirector@parkridgelibrary.org

**Marketing Manager** – Jennifer Healy

**Graphic Designer** – Kerstin Henke

Please note: Library staff may take photos or videos at our programs for use on our website, social media, and other communications. If you do not wish to be photographed, please notify the staff member.



The Friends of the Library Fall Sale raised nearly \$6,000!

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Thank you to everyone who shopped the sale.

Follow us on social media!



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**Toys for Tots**

The Library is partnering with the Park Ridge Police Department to collect new toys for kids in need through December 6. Leave your donation in the marked bin in our first floor lobby.

**COZY COMFORTS DRIVE**

Through December 23, we are collecting new hats, scarves, gloves and mittens in the Children's Services department and the second floor lobby. All donations will be given to families seeking shelter from domestic violence through local WINGS locations. New and unworn items only, please.



**Youth Commission Food Drive**

The Library's Teen Loft staff partners with the Park Ridge Youth Commission on various community projects, including its annual food drive supporting the Maine Township Food Pantry. The Food Drive will kick off February 1 and run through February 28. The Library serves as a collection site, as do several local businesses. A complete list is available at parkridge.us. The "wish list" from Maine Township will also be posted on our website.



Park Ridge Public Library

**Preschool & Enrichment Fair**

**Drop in at the Library!**

Saturday, January 24  
10 a.m. - Noon

