



MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA NEWSLETTER



Adult Winter Reading Challenge

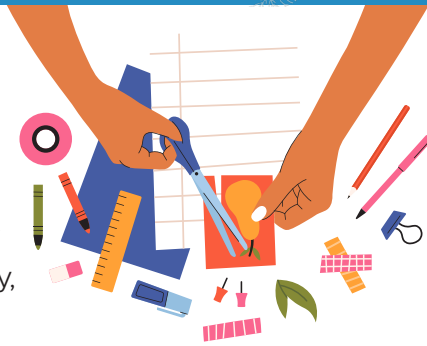
December 1–January 31

Adults can participate in Winter Reading in the library, online, and via weekly trivia contests to win grand prizes! Check out our website, stop in the library, or call the Help Desk for more information.

All Ages Crafternoon

Saturday, January 25 • 12–4 pm

We have art and craft supplies, you have creativity! We invite **all ages** to stop by the library to try out new materials, create something new out of odds and ends, and socialize with family, friends, and neighbors.



Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 1 • 2–4 pm

Join us at the library for a festive winter gathering full of fun, crafts, snacks, and socializing! Vote in the Gingerbread House Contest (creations due November 29). Have your photo taken by a professional photographer in front of our decorated fireplace. Looking for Santa? The Village hosts Making Spirits Bright on December 7 from 5–7 pm.



Classical Music: Check Out an IPO Pass December through May, *select performances only*

Experience the beauty of a live classical music concert for free by presenting your MPL library card at the Help Desk to receive a pass to an Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra performance. Each pass is good for two tickets. Passes are limited to one pass per family per concert, and two passes per family per season.



Kindness Hats

November 1–January 31

Use your love of knitting or crochet to keep our community warm this winter. Stop by the Help Desk starting November 1 to check out a kit with yarn, needles, and patterns, or use your own materials. Hats made in any size and color are donated to local charities. Make one or make 100! Every single hat is appreciated. Bring completed hats to the library by January 31.

YOUTH SERVICES

Registration ^R is required for all programs beginning on Wednesday, November 20, via the online events calendar at messengerpl.org, by phone (630) 801-4340, or in person. For drop-in program reminders, use the **Remind Me** or **Add to My Calendar** buttons on the calendar.

BABIES-PRESCHOOL

Baby Storytime ^R

Tuesdays • 9:30–10 am OR
10:15–10:45 am

Fall, cont'd: December 3–10
Winter: January 14–February 18
Ages 0–24 months with caregiver. Enjoy stories, songs, and movement to help foster early literacy skills.

Family Storytime ^R

Thursdays • 10–10:30 am
Fall, cont'd: December 5–12
Winter: Jan 16–Feb 20

Ages 2–5 with caregiver. Enjoy stories and songs with your family while building pre-literacy skills and learning about the world around us.

Preschool Playtime: Juggling & Parachutes

Friday, Dec 6 • 10–10:30 am

Ages 3–5 with caregiver. Join us as we bring out the parachute and introduce the basics of scarf juggling to your little ones!

Ms. Rachel Sing-A-Long Storytime ^R

Saturday, Dec 7 • 9:30–10 am
Ages 0–3 with caregiver. “Hi, friends!” We will read Ms. Rachel’s new book and sing all her favorite songs and rhymes! Get ready to hop, little bunnies!



Preschool Storytime & Craft ^R

10–10:30 am

Thursday, December 19
Winter Night Light

Friday, January 17
Fun with Clay

Wednesday, February 5
Let It Snow!

Ages 3–5 with caregiver. Join us to read a story together then complete a fun craft or activity for you to take home!

Stuffed Animal Sleepover ^R Storytime



Tuesday, Jan 7 • 5:30–6 pm

Pick-up

Wednesday, Jan 8 • 11 am–4 pm
Ages 3–5. Bring a stuffed animal friend to the library for a sleepover. Enjoy bedtime stories and tuck them in on Jan. 7. Pick them up on Jan. 8 and see what adventures they had overnight!

PLAYTIMES

Baby Tunnel Time

Monday, January 20
10–10:45 am

Toddler Science Fun!

Monday, February 10
10–11 am

Enjoy playtime with your baby or toddler as you learn and explore with new friends!



Sensory Playtime

10–11 am

Monday, December 16

Monday, January 6

Saturday, February 1

Ages 0–4 with caregiver. Enjoy sensory play experiences with your little ones.



Firefly Family Theatre Presents Spark’s Snow Day ^R

Saturday, Feb 22 • 10–11 am

Aimed at ages 2–7 with caregiver. Join Spark as she learns all about snow, hibernation, and exciting winter activities like sledding and ice skating. Spark’s Snow Day includes puppets, original music, interactive movement and lots of winter fun for families!

ALL AGES

Reading Challenges for All Ages

YEAR-ROUND: 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, 500 Books Before Middle School, 100 Books Before Graduation

SCHOOL YEAR: Monarch (Grades K–3), Bluestem (Grades 3–5), Caudill (Grades 4–8), Lincoln (Grades 9–12)

Ages 0–18. Read or listen to books and graphic novels, keep track of titles on Beanstack or a paper log, and earn goodies, Culvers, and free prize books! Special thanks to Culvers of North Aurora for donating free scoops of custard for readers (available while supplies last). Visit messengerpl.org/reading-challenges for more info.

Winter Book Subscriptions

Ages 0–18. Enjoy a new selection of books every month! Pick up your books on December 10, January 10, and February 10. Messenger Library card required.

Lego Club

Thursdays • 6–7 pm

December 12, January 9, & February 13

Visit Youth Services to build a Lego creation to display for all to enjoy.



Early Reader Book Club

Saturdays • 10-10:45 am 

Ages 5–7 with caregiver. Just starting to read or exploring early chapter books? Join us to read together, talk about books, and do crafts. Books and refreshments provided.



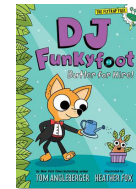
DECEMBER 14

Welcome to the Woofmore
by Donna Gephart



JANUARY 11

Pets Rule! My Kingdom of Darkness
by Susan Tan



FEBRUARY 8

DJ Funkyfoot: Butler for Hire
by Tom Angleberger

KIDS (AGES 5-12)

Programs with a  require advance registration.

Junior Library Helpers Training Session

Monday, Dec 2 • 6:30–7 pm

Ages 9–11. Too young to be a Teen Volunteer but still want to help around the library? Attend training, then help with simple tasks on your own schedule (15–30 minutes, one or two times/month).

Holiday Cookies with Kidinary Cooking Academy

Ages 4–7: Wednesday,

December 4 • 6–7:15 pm

Ages 8–12: Wednesday,

December 11 • 6–7:15 pm

Do you have a baker at home who loves to create sweet treats? Let's whip up homemade holiday treats with Chef! Accommodates nut, dairy, and gluten allergies.



Read With Rover

Sunday,
Dec 15,
Jan 19 & Feb 16
2–3 pm

For readers. Love reading? Or dogs? Practice reading aloud with a licensed therapy dog from the Fox Valley Therapy Dog Club. Each attendee will get 10–15 minutes to read with a dog. Order will be determined by arrival at 2 pm.



Books & Bites

Saturdays • 10:30–11:15 am

Dec 21, Jan 18 & Feb 15

Ages 8–12. Let's learn how to make a tasty snack and chow down, listen to a short story or chapter book teaser, and talk books.

Creativity Lab: Squeegie Art

Monday, January 6 • 6-6:45 pm

Ages 8–12. Let's get creative with blobs of paint and a squeegie! Come dressed to get messy.

App Development with Ready Set Code

Monday, Feb 3 • 6:30–8 pm

Ages 8–12. Step into the world of app development by designing and creating your own mobile application! This workshop covers the basics of design, user experience, and coding that students need to create functioning applications.

Messy Art

Monday, February 17 • 10-11 am

Ages 5–8. Have you ever tried painting with string? Join us for a session of Messy Art where we use different techniques to create masterpieces with paint and string!

TEENS

Registration **R** is required for all programs beginning on Wednesday, November 20, via the online events calendar at messengerpl.org, by phone (630) 801-4340, or in person. For drop-in program reminders, use the **Remind Me** or **Add to My Calendar** buttons on the calendar.

TikTok Crunchwrap with Kidinary Cooking Academy **R**

Wednesday, December 11
7:30–8:30 pm

Ages 12-16. Come learn cooking techniques and tricks while making the viral TikTok Crunchwrap recipe. You will also learn how to make your own taco seasoning and a tasty lime slush. Accommodates nut, dairy, and gluten allergies.

SHIELD Agent Final Exam Escape Room (Teen Session) **R**

Friday, Jan 3 • 1:30–2:30 pm
OR 3-4 pm

Ages 11-18. Do you have what it takes to be a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent? You have been working hard training, so now it is time to test your skills. Work as a team to complete the puzzles, pass the test, and become an agent.

TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Students ages 11–18/grades 6–12 are welcome to volunteer at the library year-round! Visit messengerpl.org/teenvolunteers to apply.



All About Scholarships **R**

Thurs, Dec 19 • 7–7:30 pm

Grades 11–12 + adults. An introduction to applying for scholarships, including the basics of a scholarship application with tips from successful applicants and reputable sources of information. Presented by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

Teen DIY: String Art Thursday, Jan 16 • 7–8 pm

Ages 11-18. Come create a colorful piece of wall art using string and pins.

App Development with Ready Set Code **R**

Thursday, Feb 6 • 6:30-8 pm

Ages 11-18. Step into the world of app development by designing and creating your own mobile application. This workshop covers the basics of design, user experience, and coding students will need to create functioning applications.



Teen Yum Club: Africa **R** Thursday, Feb 20 • 7–8 pm

Ages 11-18. Like to try new things? Wish you could travel around the world? Yum Club is a place to explore new places through food! This month we are exploring snacks from all over Africa. Space is limited.

Teen Book Box Subscription **R**

Grades 6–12.

Enjoy a new selection of books every month! Pick up your books on **Dec 10, Jan 10, and Feb 10**. Messenger Library card required.



Teen Take Out

DECEMBER: Salted Dark Chocolate Pretzel Bark

JANUARY: Knit & Crochet Kit

FEBRUARY: Magnus Glider

Stop by the Teen Space each month for a fun craft or activity to take home and make on your own time. New kits debut on the first of the month, so grab one before they disappear! While supplies last.



DECEMBER



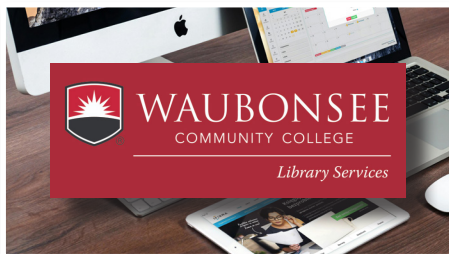
JANUARY



FEBRUARY

ADULT PROGRAMS

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Winter Technology Programs ^R

Coming soon!

MPL is excited to offer more technology programs in partnership with Aurora Public Library District and Waubonsee Community College. Watch the Messenger Library website and social media for scheduling and registration details as they become available.



Gift Wrap Social ^R Monday, December 9 6:30–8:30 pm

Are you dreading the chore of wrapping gifts, or do you struggle to find a place to wrap away from the prying eyes of family members? Join us for our Gift Wrap Social! Bring yourself and your gifts to be wrapped. We provide wrapping supplies, snacks, and an opportunity to socialize with other community members.

Wits Workout ^R

Fridays • 10:30–11:30 am

Wits Workout is an engaging, interactive, and educational brain health program designed especially for seniors. Learn about brain health and participate in activities to strengthen your memory and increase your brain power!



December 13 • Comforts of Home (recall)

January 10 • Out with the Old and in with the New (short term memory)

February 7 • Child's Play (long term memory)

Drop-In Crochet and Knit Club

**Thursdays • 6–8 pm
Dec 19, Jan 16 & Feb 20**

Come relax and work on making something cozy with others who are interested in the fiber arts! This is a drop-in style program for experienced crafters. Refreshments are provided. Please bring your own materials and projects to work on.

All About Scholarships ^R Thursday, December 19 7–7:30 pm

Grades 11–12 + adults. An introduction to applying for scholarships, including the basics of a scholarship application with tips from successful applicants and reputable sources of information. Presented by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.



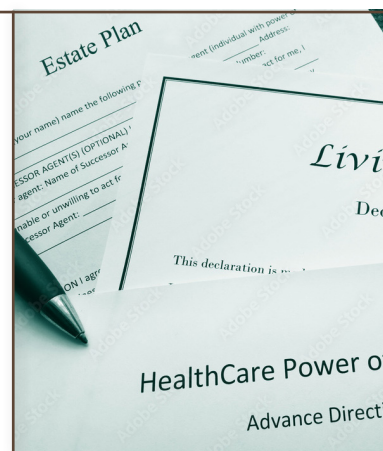
SHIELD Agent Final Exam Escape Room ^R Saturday, January 4 •

**9:30–10:30 am, 11 am–Noon,
1:30–2:30 pm, OR 3–4 pm**
Ages 11 and up, adults included.

Do you have what it takes to be a S.H.I.E.L.D. agent? You have been working hard training, so now it is time to test your skills. Work as a team to complete the puzzles, pass the test, and become an agent.

Estate Planning Explained ^R Tuesday, January 7 • 7–8 pm

This program, led by retirement expert Jim Flanagan, covers the estate planning process from beginning to end. Look closely at the need to plan, common planning techniques, the documents used in the planning process, and more. Gain a thorough understanding of what steps you need to take to protect your spouse and heirs.





Extended Meditation Practices for the New Year: Parts 1 and 2

Wednesdays • 6–7 pm
January 8 AND January 15

Join Umesh Bhatia for this engaging workshop that demonstrates the most natural and effective techniques of meditation. Umesh will give suggestions for deepening and stabilizing our meditation practices. Achieve a lasting state of peace and happiness found though no other experience. For new or advanced meditators. Come to either session or both!



AI Petting Zoo

Monday, Jan 20 • 7–8:30 pm

Are you curious about AI but unsure about where to start exploring? Presenter Elliot Witt gives a short talk on the ins and outs of this cutting-edge technology followed by a guided, hands-on demonstration of several popular programs available on the internet. *Please bring your own laptop if possible.*

Elevated Comfort Cuisine (Session 1 OR 2)

Wednesday, Jan 22 • 10–Noon
OR Monday, Jan 27 • 6:30–8 pm

Patron favorite Chef Susan Maddox is back to teach us new recipes featuring elevated comfort food. There are two sessions of this program. *Both are identical; please only register for one.*

Chair Yoga

Friday, January 24
10–11am

Join us in welcoming back DuShaun Branch, who leads you through an hour of gentle yoga and stretches, done while seated.



Post Election Update with Paul Lisnek

VIRTUAL EVENT

Tuesday, January 28 • 7–8 pm

Please join us as we partner with other area libraries to host WGNTV political analyst Paul Lindek, who provides us with a glimpse of what to expect for the State of the Union post-election. *Zoom link provided upon registration.*

Pre-Civil War Quilts

Saturday, Feb 22 • 3–4 pm

Join Connie Martin as she tells the stories passed down through her great-grandmother, Lizzie, of how her family survived the antebellum and how they used quilts that contained hidden codes and secret messages to assist abolitionists to freedom through the Underground Railroad to Canada.

Yum Club

Do you want to travel the world without leaving the library? Join us for the Yum Club, where foodies come together to taste snacks and treats from a different country each month. *Spots are very limited, so please register to attend. Those with food allergies should proceed with caution.*



Holiday
Monday, Dec 30
7–8 pm



Spain
Tuesday, Jan 28
7–8 pm



Scandinavia
Monday, Feb 24
7–8 pm

NORTH AURORA Community Group MEETINGS

North Aurora Garden Club

1st Monday/month • 6:30 pm
Gail Wilke (630) 618-6467

North Aurora Lions Club

2nd Tuesday/month • 7 pm
northauroralions@gmail.com

Toastmasters: Timely Talkers

1st & 3rd Wednesday/month • 7–8:30 pm
Dan Velasco at danvelasco123@gmail.com

Toastmasters: Advanced Expressives

4th Saturday/month • 10:15 am–Noon
John Jerrard (630) 688-8438

ART CLUB FOR ADULTS

Beginners welcome! Register **R** in advance. For adults and teens over 16 (with registered adult).



Easy Quilled Holiday Ornaments **R**

Saturday, December 14
10am–Noon OR
Tuesday, December 17
6:30–8:30 pm

Quill festive holiday ornaments with colorful, tightly coiled strips of paper and glue. Registration opens November 1.

Embossed Aluminum Design **R**

Saturday, Jan 11 • 10am–Noon
Emboss designs on aluminum sheet and give it an antique finish. Then extend the pattern to the border with colored pencils. Registration opens December 1.

Faux Crystal Geodes **R**

Tuesday, January 21
6:30–8:30 pm
Create your own stunning crystal "geode" from iridescent crushed glass and glue. Registration opens December 1.

PLEASE NOTE: March Art Club–Project TBA. Registration opens February 1.



Abstract Squeegee Painting **R**

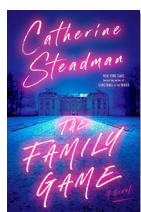
Saturday, February 8
10am–Noon OR
Tuesday, February 18
6:30–8:30 pm

Explore the fun, modern painting technique taking TikTok by storm! Registration opens January 2 due to holiday.

ADULT BOOK CLUBS

Digital copies of book discussion titles may be available on hoopla, Libby, or Boundless; print copies are available for checkout at the User Services Desk. Please register **R** in advance.

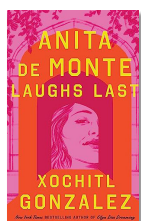
Morning Book Club **R** Wednesdays 10:30–11:30 am



DEC 4
The Family Game by Catherine Steadman



JAN 8
Matrix by Lauren Groff

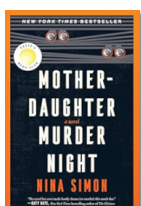


FEB 5
Anita De Monte Laughs Last by Xochitl Gonzalez

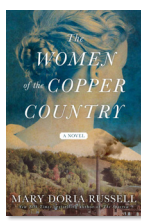
Evening Book Club **R** Thursdays • 7–8 pm



DEC 5
The Christmas Pearl by Dorothea Benton Frank

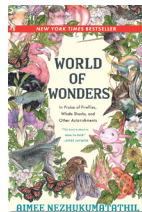


JAN 2
Mother-Daughter Murder Night by Nina Simon

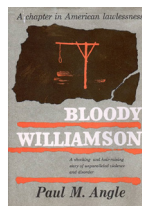


FEB 6
The Women of the Copper Country by Mary Doria Russell

Narrative Nonfiction Book Club **R** Mondays • 7–8 pm



DEC 9
World of Wonders by Aimee Nezhukumatathil



JAN 13
Bloody Williamson by Paul M. Angle



FEB 10
Burn Book: A Tech Love Story by Kara Swisher

Book Club Is Our Alibi **R**

Monday, February 17
7–8:30 pm

Location: Raimondo's Pizza
Join us for our newest book club! We meet in different locations within the area to discuss a thriller. Locations and title selections change quarterly. This winter, we discuss *Behind Her Eyes* by Sarah Pinborough and meet at Raimondo's Pizza in North Aurora. We examine the book in detail, and everyone is welcome even if you haven't read it! Need a copy? Pick one up at the User Services Desk.





RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

MESSENGER PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NORTH AURORA | WINTER 2025: DEC, JAN, FEB

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday-Thursday
9 am–9 pm

Friday-Saturday
9 am–5 pm

Sunday
1–5 pm

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Saperston, President
Mary Steed
Tanya Berley
Peggy Carlson
Elizabeth Cranford
James R. Hicks
Darlene Bailey

LIBRARY BOARD MEETINGS

Thursdays • 7–8 pm
December 12, January 9, February 13

THE LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25
Tuesday, December 31
Wednesday, January 1



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Thank you to our patrons for your support throughout another busy calendar year at the library. As the season shifts to winter, we offer a variety of opportunities to gain experience, grow, and gather with your community. A highlight of our season will be our Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 1. Please stop by to say hello and enjoy delicious hot chocolate and a range of festivities.

New for the winter season will be refreshed computers in the youth services section, with better firepower for research or STEAM-related gaming. Our adult computer lab also received larger monitors, with better visual clarity to assist with a wide variety of uses. Our library replaced

a boiler just in time as cold weather hit, and I am thankful that we've been good stewards by saving for capital needs.

We always must plan for something to fail, so we try not to fail at planning to save! Keeping cozy and warm is essential for our beautiful building and patron comfort.

Stop by and visit us this winter, we are glad to see you! Have a wonderful holiday season.



Shannon Halikias
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Shannon Halikias

Library Director

shannon@messengerpl.org