

WPL The EXPLORER

A Publication of the Westmont Public Library

Vol. 4, Issue 3 September-November 2010

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Did You Know?

The summer reading program 2010, Make Waves @ Westmont Public Library, was a record breaking year! More than 1,200 people registered for the program and read thousands of books! Most notably, almost 500 adults participated in the program and 100 teens! This amazing response amounts to a 90% overall increase over last year's registration numbers! Way to go Westmont!

Don't forget!
Program registration is online at:
www.westmontlibrary.org

Survey Data Helps Board Plan Ahead

Every five years the Library Board of Trustees along with the Library Director review and revise the strategic plan. A variety of factors are considered before this plan is developed and shared with the community. It is especially critical now given the Board's commitment to remain at or below the voter approved tax rate. With increased usage (up 23% in June) and declining revenues, the Board and staff must look at realigning priorities.

Over the next several months, the Westmont Public

Library will gather data and information from our residents through written surveys and focus groups. The results will help the Board of Trustee and other community leaders establish new priorities around which a new strategic plan will be developed, one that will serve as a guide for the next five years.

Residents can expect to see surveys in the library at all service desks, on the WPL website, and in the mail for randomly selected households. All Westmont residents are welcome to complete the short

and long form surveys. "We really need to hear from the households that receive the mailed survey this September, as their responses will help to validate the findings of the volunteered responses," said Christine Kuhn, Library Director.

In addition to surveys, several focus groups will meet in the library in order to gain more specific, in-depth information.

Look for a new strategic plan to be rolled out in early 2011!

Hispanic Heritage Celebrated with Music



Experience the music, dance, and storytelling talents of the group **Nahui Ollin** at the Westmont Public Library on **Sunday, September 12th at 3PM.**

Learn about the musical traditions of the ancient Aztecs including the names of the dances in the traditional Nahuatl language. View instruments like the ones the Aztecs used, and hear a brief retelling of some of their

fascinating history.

The group **Nahui Ollin: Danzas Ceremoniales de Mexico** was formed in 1995 and has danced in pow wows, festivals, and schools all over the Midwest and the East Coast.

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with us at this event, reserve your seat now. Sign up online or call 630-969-5625. Anyone over the age of five is welcome to attend.

Autism Awareness Event

The Westmont Public Library will host a speaker from Charlie's Gift on **Tuesday, September 28 at 7PM** to discuss living with and understanding autism.

The audience will also hear from a 12-year-old boy who has Asperger's as he explains what he learned about himself through his diagnosis and how he is helping

educate others.

Plan to join us if you or someone you know has been diagnosed with autism. This event will help bring to light some of the struggles and successes of people with autism.

Please register for this event online or by calling: 630.969.5625.



Autism Resources

For more information on autism, check our online catalog or look into one of these local organizations:

Charlie's Gift,
www.charliesgiftautismcenter.org

Autism Society of Illinois
www.autismillinois.org

YOUTH PROGRAMS

📖 Musical Storytime

Wednesday, September 8th, 10:15AM
Ages 0-5

Come with your babies, toddlers, and preschoolers and enjoy a musical storytime with Miss Mary Van Deven. This fun, musical experience is based on the book, *It's Raining, It's Pouring* by Kin Eagle, and is enriched by the magic of nursery rhymes, songs, movement, instrument play, scarf dancing, and more.



📖 Science Saturday

Saturday, September 11th, 1-2:30PM
Ages 5-9

Learn cool, new science concepts, do experiments, and take home your creations. Learning has never been so fun!

⊖ Early Literacy Workshops

These workshops give parents guidance on raising lifelong readers! Bring young children along for a special storytime.

Tuesday, September 14th, 10:15AM

Session for parents of Pre-Readers (ages 4-5)

Wednesday, September 15th, 10:15AM

Session for parents of Talkers (ages 2-3) & Early Talkers (ages 0-2)

📖 ♥ Spooky Saturday

Saturday, October 30th, 1-3PM
Ages 5-9

Experience tricks and treats as you listen to spooky stories, create creepy crafts, and meet the ghosts of WPL!

📖 Family Storytime: Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 18th, 6:30PM
The family fun begins with tales that will delight all ages. After storytime, each family works together on a craft to take home.



⊖ Video Game Days

Tuesdays, 9/7, 10/5, 11/9, 3-6PM
Ages 7-11

Our popular monthly game days are back for the fall! Experience video games on the big screen! Bring your friends for games, snacks, and more.

⊖ Toddler & Me Playgroup

*Thursdays, 9/23-11/18, 10:45AM
Ages 0-4

Bring your young children to a special morning playtime in the library meeting room. Interact with other moms and caregivers while the kids play and eat snacks.

*Playgroup takes place only on storytime days.

Fall Storytimes

September 21st-November 18th

📖 Bilingual Storytime

Every 2nd & 4th Monday @ 11:30AM
9/13, 9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8, 11/22

⊖ Pre-Readers Storytimes
Tuesdays @ 10:15AM
Ages 4-5

⊖ Afternoon Storytimes
Tuesdays @ 4:00PM
Ages 0-6

⊖ Talkers Storytimes
Wednesdays @ 10:15AM
Ages 2-3

⊖ Early Talkers Storytimes
Thursdays @ 10:15AM
Ages 0-2

NOTE ON PROGRAMMING:

Staff ask all parents to be prompt when bringing children to library events. Any late arrivals may find their spot forfeited. No child will be admitted to a program more than 15 minutes after the event's start time.

TEEN SCENE

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Have your kooky pumpkin creations displayed at the library during October! Pick up a mini pumpkin from WPL beginning **Saturday, October 2nd** and return it for judging by **Friday, October 22nd**. Judging will take place the following day, October 23rd. First and second place will be notified immediately. All pumpkins must be picked up by Saturday, October 30th or they will be disposed of!



⊖ Teen Decoration Day

Join TeenTeam volunteers as we decorate the library for fall on **Saturday, October 2nd** from **10AM-12PM**.

⊖ Teen Tuesdays

Tuesdays, 9/14, 10/26, 11/23 @ 7PM

Bring your friends or come meet new ones as we hang out and make crafts, chow down on snacks, and watch movies!

Congratulations to Westmont teens

on a great summer of volunteer service and reading!

Over 100 teens signed up for the summer reading program, Make Waves @ WPL!

We had **over 40 teen volunteers** help out all summer with registering children for the summer reading program, handing out prizes, and more!

If you were too busy to volunteer at WPL this summer, you can still get involved for the fall season! All Westmont teens **ages 12 and up** are welcome to join our **TeenTeam volunteers**. A variety of opportunities are available to help earn service hours, or just to make a difference in your community! Come into the library and fill out a volunteer application or follow the instructions on our website under the "employment" tab.

Summer Read Sponsors 2010

Thank you to all of the businesses who donated to our summer reading program.

Amber Restaurant
Baskin Robbins
Bouna Beef
Brickyard Grill
Cars Plus
Chipotle
Classic Cinemas
Deluxe Inn
Dolce's Pizzeria
DuPage Children's Museum
Enchanted Castle
Friends of the Westmont Public Library
Fuddrucker's
Gameworks
Great American Bagel
Green Meadows Golf Course
Holiday Inn Elmhurst
J. Fleming's Absolutely Delicious
Uncle Bub's
Uncle Jon's Music
Vincitori's
YMCA

Registration Key: 📖 Registration is required

⊖ No children under 16

⊖ No registration required

♥ Sponsored by the Friends of WPL

Staff may refuse entrance for a library program to any person who is not within the required age range.

Dates and programs are subject to change. Please check the library website for updated information at: www.westmontlibrary.org.

♿ Please note: Individuals requiring accommodation for a disability for any library program should contact the library at least five days before the program.

COMPUTER CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Computer classes are offered for a variety of skill levels. There is a **non-refundable \$5 fee per person, per class** which is due at the Main Desk upon registration. Online registration is not available for computer classes. Please direct further questions to the Adult Help Desk at extension 5.

Beginner Classes

For those with little or no previous computer knowledge.

Intro to Computers

Wednesday, September 8th, 6:30-8:30PM

Internet Basics

Monday, October 18th, 6:30-8:30PM

Excel 2007 for Beginners

Wednesday, November 3rd, 6:30-8:30PM

Microsoft Word 2007 for Beginners

Monday, November 8th, 6:30-8:30PM

Intermediate Classes

For those with some previous computer experience.

Intermediate Computers

Monday, September 20th, 6:30-8:30PM

Intermediate Internet

Wednesday, October 27th, 6:30-8:30PM

Intermediate Excel 2007

Wednesday, November 17th, 6:30-8:30PM

ADULT PROGRAMS

☹️ Spanish Conversation Group

Mondays, 9/13, 10/4, 11/1 @ 7PM

Do you have a basic knowledge of the Spanish language but would like to learn practical phrasing and brush up on your conversation skills? Then this is the group for you! Led by a native speaker, this informal group will meet once a month. Open to high school (ages fourteen and up) and college students as well as adult learners!

☹️ Writers' Group

Thursdays, 9/9 & 9/23, 10/14 & 10/28*, 11/1 @ 7PM

This interactive group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month and is for adults interested in improving their writing skills and venturing into the world of publishing. *Author Visit-regular group meeting will not take place.

☹️ English Conversation Group

Saturdays, 9/11 & 9/25, 10/9 & 10/23, 11/13 & 11/27
10AM-12PM

This informal and friendly conversation group is for all adult English learners. Join us on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month as we improve our verbal English skills!

📖❤️ Jack the Ripper: The Whitechapel Murderer

Thursday, October 7th @ 7PM

Learn about the famous 19th-century Jack the Ripper murders. This presentation will discuss the location and nature of London's East End, reveal the character and situation of each victim, show a picture of each victim as well as the site where she was found, and discuss the criminal detection tools available to the London police.

📖❤️ Holiday Wreath Craft

Tuesday, October 12th @ 6:30PM

Make a lovely, holiday-themed wreath, candle surround, and pinecone ornament in this favorite annual program for adults with some crafting experience. All materials provided by the library. Free-will donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of materials.

📖☹️ Holiday Craft Class for Seniors

Wednesday, October 13th @ 1:30PM

This guided program for seniors will take participants through basic craft procedures as well as instructions for the evening's two projects. Participants will make a candle surround and a pinecone ornament to take home and enjoy during the holiday season!

📖☹️❤️ Author Visit: Cathie Linz

Thursday, October 28th @ 7PM

Come and learn from a pro! Cathie Linz, a former Westmont resident and author of over fifty-five contemporary romances, will share information in every writer's toolbox: how to use things like dialogue, pacing, voice, and characterization to build a strong story. If you are interested in writing or an aspiring author, you won't want to miss this award-winning author's advice!

📖☹️❤️ An Introduction to the Paranormal

Thursday, November 4th @ 7PM

Join us as a research team from TnT Paranormal Investigators discusses methods used to investigate evidence of alleged cases of paranormal or unexplained activity. The discussion will include methods for gathering data during an investigation, how the data is reviewed to determine if any paranormal evidence was captured, and if these experiences are natural/environmental, man-made, or indeed paranormal.

📖☹️ Resume Writing to Get the Interview

Monday, November 15th @ 6:30PM

Is it time to dust off your resume and start looking for a new or better job? Don't miss this workshop designed to build a better resume. Discover top reasons why applicants are disqualified based on their resumes and cover letters and make sure yours is at the top of the stack.



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Westmont Public Library
 428 N. Cass Ave.
 Westmont, IL 60559
 www.westmontlibrary.org

**Non-Profit
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit #12
 Westmont, IL**

Library Closings:

Sunday, September 5th
 Monday, September 6th
 Wednesday, November 24th (close at 5PM)
 Thursday, November 25th

Postal Patron
 Westmont, IL 60559



2009 Annual Report Numbers

By Christine Kuhn, Library Director

The Explorer is a Westmont Public Library quarterly publication intended to offer current and updated library information to Westmont patrons.

Board of Trustees:

- Amy Porter, *President*
- Elaine Carmichael, *Vice President*
- Shana Scheid, *Secretary*
- John Martens, *Treasurer*
- Joyce Fedeczko
- Chris Gorman
- Christine Kaifesh

- Christine Kuhn, *Library Director*
- Julia Coen, *Assistant Director*
- Manisha Suri, *Support Services Manager*
- Mitch Flesner, *IT Manager*
- Kate Buckson, *Explorer Editor*

The Friends of the Westmont Public Library is a non-profit organization that supports the Library by raising money to help subsidize the cost of programs and special events. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of the Library, please email: friends@westmontlibrary.org or call (630) 969-5625.

Library Hours:

Monday-Thursday	10AM-9PM
Friday-Saturday	10AM-5PM
Sunday	1PM-5PM

For more information about the Westmont Public Library, please contact us at:
 630.969.5625
 630.969.6490 fax
 westmontlibrary@westmontlibrary.org



Check us out on Facebook!
 www.facebook.com/westmontlibrary

The NUMBERS

- **15,718** residents have library cards, approximately **60%** of the community.
- **157,779** visits to the library, an increase of **6.5%** from last year.
- **223,928** items were checked out, about **8.5** items per resident.
- **278** programs were attended by **6,014** people.

The COLLECTION

- **98,249** books & magazines
- **6,643** music CDs & audio books
- **6,448** DVDs
- **568** video & computer games

The PROJECTS

Building Projects: Replaced leaking roof, automated entrance doors, and updated youth area.
Programming: We enjoyed another successful **Big Read** program featuring Kathryn Stockett's novel, *The Help*. Our annual **summer reading program** helped **over 450** children stay motivated to read all summer long!
Computer classes were reintroduced while still continuing our helpful one-on-one tutorials. We debuted **Toddler & Me Playgroup** for parents and caregivers of young children with an average of **30 attendees** per week!

The BUDGET

Revenue
 Property Tax: \$1,698,236
 Desk Revenue: \$38,941
 Building Loan: \$825,000
 Total Revenue: **\$2,562,177***

Expenditures
 Materials: \$247,154
 General Operating: \$368,972
 Roof & Building Improvements: \$763,213
 Loan Payment: \$112,000
 Wages/Benefits: \$875,102
 Transfer to Special Reserve: \$195,736
 Total Expenditures: **\$2,562,177***

*unaudited figures

4th Monday Book Group

Join us on the fourth Monday of every month at **7:00PM** as we discuss popular titles. Books are available for checkout at the Main Desk one month in advance.

September 27, 2010
A Stopover in Venice,
 by Kathryn Walker

October 25, 2010
Look Again, by Lisa Scottoline

November 22, 2010
The Plague,
 by Albert Camus

Books and Bites for Seniors

Join Sheila, our readers' advisor, at the **Westmont Senior Center on Wednesday, October 27th at 12PM**. She will take over as a special guest and provide a book chat! Participants should bring a brown bag lunch and the Senior Center will provide dessert and coffee. You need not read the book to attend! Sheila will give you a summary of the book and you can decide for yourself if you want to read it! **Please register** in advance by calling the Senior Center **(630) 969-8080 ext. 121**.