



755 E. State St, Cherry Valley, IL 61016
cherryvalleylib.org • 815.332.5161

CHERRY VALLEY CHAPTERS

Winter 2025/2026 December - February



MINI-GOLF in the LIBRARY & SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, February 21; 10:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday, February 22; 1:00 - 4:00pm

Grab your family, neighbors, and friends for a weekend of golfing fun! Mini-putt through the indoor course that features some of your favorite book & movie characters, including The Wild Robot, Pokémon, and The Good Egg, for FREE! Reservations for tee times are encouraged, but drop-ins are also welcome.

After your round of golf, visit the snack bar where you can purchase treats. And, don't forget to bid on a huge variety of gift baskets and items in the Silent Auction that will culminate on Sunday evening. Many silent auction items will be on display prior to Mini-Golf for early bidding.

Hole sponsors (\$100 each), donors for silent auction items, and volunteers are needed.

Please call the library at **815.332.5161** for details.



PLEASE PARDON OUR DUST!



Over the next few months, the library will be going through a renovation to accommodate our new makerspace and podcast booth. The makerspace will be a place where people can gather to collaborate and create using everything from traditional tools to high tech equipment. Equipment will include 3-D printers, a heat press, sewing machines, and more. Whether you want to spend time tinkering or attending a program to learn a new skill, there will be something for everyone!

In addition to the makerspace, the Teen Zone will be remodeled and the Youth Services picture book area will undergo some minor changes. During this time, there may be interruptions to programs and collections. We will provide as much advance notice as possible. Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates and announcements.

This project is possible due to on-going fundraising efforts, generous donors, and fiscal responsibility on the part of the Board of Trustees. We're thrilled to provide this new space without raising taxes or taking on debt.

Look for the grand opening of the Idea Zone in early spring 2026!

BE A MONSTER READER!



Village of Cherry Valley Upcoming Events

Questions?
Call the Village at 815.332.3441

• November 30th - Santa coming to the Village

• December – Holiday Light nominations (Turn in your favorite decorated home to Heather at Village Hall)

DECEMBER 1-31

BE A
MONSTER
READER!R=Registration is required. Ways to register: In-person •
Online at cherryvalleylib.org • Call 815.332.5161

Story Times @ Your Library

Story time programs give children time to interact with books and learn the joy of reading!

Registration is required. **Story times run: January 3 - February 20****Wee Read** ^R*Mondays at 9:30am Ages 2-3 years*

Enjoy 30 minutes of short stories, finger plays, rhymes, and songs. In this program, parents or caregivers interact with their children and discover the joy of reading. Limit of 10 children with one accompanying adult each.

Book Babies ^R*Tuesdays at 9:30am Ages 6-24 months*

Enjoy 20 minutes of baby bounces, rhymes, short stories, and finger plays to help introduce your child to the world of books. After story time there will be 25 minutes of playtime and socialization. Because this is a special time for you and your little one, please make alternate arrangements for other children during story time. Limit of 10 children with one accompanying adult each.

Story Sprouts ^R*Thursdays at 9:30am**Ages 1-6 years*

Enjoy 30 minutes full of reading readiness, finger plays, rhymes, short stories, songs, and dancing as we grow our love of books. Limit of 12 children with one accompanying adult each.

Music & Movement ^R*Fridays at 9:30am or 10:30am Ages 1-5 years*

Come spend 30 minutes in our musically rich environment, with singing, dancing, and listening to stories. Limit of 15 children.

Family Story Time ^R*Ages 1-6 years**First Saturday of the month at 10:30am*

Enjoy 30 minutes of stories, songs, and movement with your family. For children ages 1 to 6 years and their families. Please only register one family member.

Special Youth Programs

Kids After Hours Laser Tag ^R*Friday, December 26 from 5:30-6:30pm**Ages 7-11*

What happens when the lights go out at the library? An all-out laser tag battle! Divide up into teams and defend your section of the library. Registration is required. Minimum of 10 registrations required or event will be cancelled.

Kids Labubu Paintings ^R*Monday, February 16 at 1:00pm**Ages 7-11*

Let your creativity flow as you bring a Labubu (Lafufu?) to life on canvas! Get ready for a fun-filled session filled with colorful paints, brushes, and little monsters! Some guidance will be provided, but children will have lots of room to show their own style and creativity. Don't miss out on this monstrous artistic adventure! Registration is required.



Winter Family Programs

A variety of events for children and their grown-up(s).
Registration is required.

Monster Scavenger Hunt

December - February

All Ages

There are monsters hidden throughout the youth services department! Can you find them all? Grab a worksheet from the Youth Services desk and let the hunt begin!

Building Bonanza

Monday, December 22 from 1:00pm-3:00pm

Ages 3-11

Drop in to the library during winter break for some building fun! Visitors can make projects using LEGO, DUPLO, or our Magnatiles. This event is a fun opportunity to put engineering skills into action with friends and family. Let's see what you can create! Registration is NOT required, but recommended to receive a reminder.

The Great Puzzle Race: Family Edition

Saturday, January 17 from 10:00am-noon

Ages 5-11 and their families

Create a team of four, choose a team name, and let the race begin! See how quickly your team can work together to complete a 300 piece puzzle. We have space for 6 teams to participate. Teams must contain at least one child ages 5-11. Registration is required. Please register every member of your team.

Cardboard Challenge: How to Catch a Monster

Monday, January 19 from 1:00-3:00pm

Ages 3-11

Let your imagination run wild as you engineer and build your own monster trap using the library's kid-safe Makedo tools and cardboard. These fun STEM tools allow you to fold, cut, and screw together cardboard to build all sorts of unique creations!

Registration is required.

Monster Art

Thursday, January 29 at 6:00pm

Ages 3-11

Children and their grownup(s) will work together to complete various monster-themed art projects. Dress for a mess!

Registration is required.

Challenge: Butt or Face Live!

Thursday, February 12 at 6:00pm

Ages 3-11

You've read the popular book series by Kari Lavelle, now come play live! Work as a team and help each other decide: is it a butt or a face? Families will discuss as a team if the close up image of an animal is a butt or a face. Which team will guess the most answers correctly?

Registration is required.

 =Registration is required. Ways to register: In-person •
Online at cherryvalleylib.org • Call 815.332.5161

Interactive Movie

Monday, December 29 at 3:00pm 

Enjoy this special movie event as we host an interactive showing of the 2025 live action adaptation of **How to Train Your Dragon**.

- Props and popcorn will be provided.
- For all ages. Registration is required.
- A minimum of 10 registrations is required or this event will be cancelled.
- Rated PG
- Run time: 125 min



SCARECROW WINNERS!



FIRST PLACE!

#48 Monarch Butterfly
by Country Road
Greenhouses

SECOND PLACE!
#17 Wednesday Adams
by Sandi Sesterhenn



THIRD PLACE!
#5 Stitch
by The Lane Family



Grab & Go Kits

Each kit contains supplies and instructions. Registration closes the Wednesday before kit pickup begins. Kits are available for pick up at the library for one week. Priority for these kits will be given to those with Cherry Valley library cards. Those without a Cherry Valley card will be placed on a pending waiting list upon registration. If spaces are available after registration closes, you will be notified of a status change via email.

Gingerbread Houses – December 5-13 ^R

Whether a new or ongoing tradition, children of all ages will be delighted with this holiday activity! This kit is sponsored by the Reichensperger Family. Recommended for ages 3+. *[ONE KIT PER FAMILY!]*

New Year's Eve – December 19-27 ^R

Ring in the new year with this fun-filled kit! This kit contains everything you need for your own New Year's Eve party at home. Make a party hat, 2026 glasses, and more! Celebrate the coming of 2026 with a cocoa toast, we'll supply the cocoa mix. For ages 3-12. *[ONE KIT PER CHILD!]*

Cheese Puff Monsters – January 9-17 ^R

Have you ever met a monster made out of cheese puffs? Get ready to meet a deliciously cheesy, puffy monster that you design. Recommended for ages 5+. *[ONE KIT PER FAMILY!]*

Make Your Own Planet – February 13-21 ^R

Get excited for February 28th's alignment of six planets by creating your own planet to shine in the night sky! Recommended for ages 5+. *[ONE KIT PER FAMILY!]*



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Tween & Teen Programs



All About Anime ^R

Monday, December 1 at 6:00pm
Monday, January 5 at 6:00pm
Monday, February 2 at 6:00pm
Ages 12-17

Grow your appreciation of Japanese animation and culture, as we discuss anime and manga while sampling a variety of Asian snacks.

Friday Night Takeover

Ages 12-17

Teens are taking over the library for after-hours pizza and games! Minimum of 10 registrations required or event will be cancelled.

Laser Tag ^R

Friday, December 26 from 7:00-9:00pm

What happens when the lights go out at the library? An all-out laser tag battle! Divide up into teams and defend your section of the library.

Super Mario World Super Speed Run ^R

Friday, January 30 from 6:00-8:00pm

Divide into teams and cheer each other on as we see how fast the group can speed run the 1990 classic Super Mario World on the SNES Classics and giant projector!

Teen Advisory Board ^R

Monday, January 26 at 6:00pm
Ages 12-17

This quarter, teens will offer their suggestions on growing teen programming and services at the library, while also helping to design a mini-golf hole for the annual Mini-Golf in the Library event. Members of the Teen Advisory Board will be offered further service hour opportunities at the Mini-Golf and Silent Auction in February.

Anti-Valentine's Day Zombie Plushies ^R

Saturday, February 14 at 1:00pm
Ages 12-17

Uncelebrate Valentine's Day by making your very own zombie plushie. All materials and instructions will be provided.



Winter Adult Programs

R =Registration is required. Ways to register: In-person •
Online at cherryvalleylib.org • Call 815.332.5161
\$ =Program fee

Chair Yoga **\$ R**

Wednesday, December 17 at 10:30am
Wednesdays, January 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10:30am
Wednesdays, February 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 10:30am

Local yoga instructor Marie Bridges will walk you through poses designed to help maintain flexibility, breathe more deeply, and sleep more soundly in this introduction course designed to improve mobility.

Registration and payment of \$5 must be done in person at the library.

Adult Craft Nights **R**

Kickstart your creativity at one of winter craft nights. Space is limited and registration closes one week before each event.

Yarn Garland

Tuesday, December 16 at 5:30pm
Welcome in the chilly season by designing a garland that includes snowmen, warm hats, and more.

Shadow Boxes

Tuesday, January 13 at 5:30pm
Come in from the cold and try your hand at these winter themed papercrafts.

Busted Canvases

Tuesday, February 10 at 5:30pm
Create your own busted canvas that is bursting with love.

Take & Bake: Big Soft Ginger Cookies **R**

January 23-31

Make soft, sweet ginger cookies to go with a cup of hot cocoa. We will provide all the dry ingredients and recipe. Registration is required and closes on Monday, January 12 at 8:00pm.

Muffins & Medicare **R**

Tuesday, February 10 at 10:00am

Come and grab a morning muffin as we learn about the changes coming to Medicare in 2026. Presented by Kris Wilcoxon of American Republic Insurance Services, who has been serving clients since 2003.

Pizza, Medicare, and You **R**

Wednesday, February 11 at 5:30pm

Get a slice of knowledge and a slice of pizza! Join us for an informative Medicare meeting with tasty pizza on the side. Presented by Kris Wilcoxon of American Republic Insurance Services who has been serving clients since 2003.

iPad & iPhone Basics **R**

Wednesday, January 21 at 2:00pm

Thursday, January 22 at 10:00am

Learn the basic features of your iPhone or iPad in this one-time class. Please bring your device(s).

Senior Moments

You're invited to join our group centered on building community. We spend time together, talk, laugh, and have fun. Registration is required.

Holiday Party with Denny Diamond **R**

Thursday, December 18 at 10:30am

Join us to celebrate the holidays with some food, drinks, and fun! We'll enjoy music by Denny Diamond and treats provided by My Café Amore!

"Planning Your Legacy" **R**

Thursday, January 15 at 10:30am

"Planning Your Legacy" is a robust presentation that will cover the important estate documents you need, the process for which assets transfer at your death, and how to build a thoughtful guide to be followed that will ensure that your values and assets pass efficiently at your passing. Presented by Savant Wealth Management.

Northern Illinois Hospice **R**

Thursday, February 19 at 10:30am

Come join us to talk about what is important to you and how to make sure that your wishes are shared and honored. We will discuss the importance of completing your Advance Directives. We will also give you free resources, including What Matters Most, a unique deck of cards that help you prioritize what really matters to you; The Reading Room, an online resource filled with useful articles and videos to help you and those caring for you; and File of Life®, a small document that provides vital information to first responders in the event of an emergency.





Bundle up and come over to the library for one or all of these Sunday afternoon events! For ages 18 and older.



Chicago Accordion Group R

Sunday, January 4 at 2:00pm

Join us for a presentation about the history and operation of the accordion, as well as a performance of this interesting instrument by Gary Edgren and Chuck Peila of the Chicago Accordion Club.



The Making of "I Love Lucy" with Todd Hunt R

Sunday, January 11 at 2:00pm

Journey back to the golden age of television to learn how this classic was created. Discover how it grew out of Lucy's radio program, "My Favorite Husband," explore production techniques pioneered by Desi Arnaz, including the three-camera concept and delve into the life stories of Lucy, Desi, and cast members Vivian Vance and William Frawley (who were not the original choices for Ethel and Fred Mertz). Remember the candy factory? Stomping grapes? Vitameatavegamin? These episodes all have fascinating back stories.



Dark Days of Illinois History-Prohibition R

Sunday, January 18 at 2:00pm

Author and researcher Kathi Kresol will share stories of the dark side of Illinois history with this thrilling look into the state's involvement with Prohibition. This presentation will reveal how infamous criminals turned Illinois into their own playground and battlefield complete with shootouts, heists, and hideouts. Kathi will share photographs and little-known stories she discovered while diving into the shadowy legacy of the state's most notorious "businessmen".



The Women: The Story of Two Army Nurses in Vietnam R

Sunday, January 25 at 2:00pm

Join storyteller and author Lynn Rymarz as she weaves the fictional story of Army Nurse Frances McGrath from **The Women** by Kristin Hannah and the true story of Army Nurse Lynda Van Devanter from her memoir **Home Before Morning**.



Adult Book Groups

All book groups will meet in-person at the library. Registration is required. Books are available for checkout once you register.

Read-y or Not Book Club: R

The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times by Jane Goodall

Tuesday, December 2 from 6:00-7:00pm

Thursday, December 4 from 10:00-11:00am

How to Age Disgracefully by Clare Pooley
Book inspired snacks

Tuesday, January 6 from 6:00-7:00pm

Thursday, January 8 from 10:00-11:00am

In Love: A Memoir of Love and Loss by Amy Bloom

Tuesday, February 3 from 6:00-7:00pm

Thursday, February 5 from 10:00-11:00am

Grounds for Murder: R

The Housemaid by Freida McFadden

Thursday, December 11 from 6:00-7:00pm

The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro

Thursday, January 8 from 6:00-7:00pm

Death at the Sanatorium by Ragnar Jónasson

Thursday, February 12 from 6:00-7:00pm





ITEMS NEEDED!

- Canned Fruit
- Applesauce
- Pasta and Rice
- Tuna
- Peanut Butter
- 100% Juice
- Canned Beans
- Soup
- Jelly in a plastic jar
- Canned Vegetables
- Cereal



Do you need food assistance? The pantry provides a four-day food supply for each person in the household. They distribute food from two locations, Monday through Friday:

1100 Broadway from 10:00am - 12:00pm

421 South Rockton Avenue from 1:00 - 4:00pm

Cherry Valley Public Library Mini Store NEW MERCHANDISE!

Are you looking for the perfect holiday gift? Do you need help staying warm this winter? Look no further than the Friends of the Cherry Valley Public Library's mini pop-up shop!

When the book bike is not on the road, it's used as our library store. You can find it inside the lobby near the Adult Services desk.

It is currently stocked with a variety of winter items featuring our logo and mascot, Little Pit! We have adult hoodies and t-shirts. (Colors and sizes will vary). We also offer knit hats and gloves. In addition, we have tote bags that are perfect to carry anything and everything. Coming soon we will have new merchandise. There will be hoodies in charcoal grey and long sleeve t-shirts in black – adult sizes only.

Whatever you choose, know you are helping support CVPL. All proceeds go directly to the library to enhance programs, services, and collections.

Stop by to make a purchase and show your pride in the Cherry Valley Public Library!



Friends of the Library Meeting

Tuesday, February 10 at 6:15pm

The Friends of the Library consists of community volunteers committed to supporting the library through fundraising, special events, and raising awareness of library services. At this meeting, we will be assembling our annual membership mailer, making final plans for Mini-Golf in the Library, and discussing future initiatives.

PrairieCat On the Go

Introducing our NEW mobile app: PrairieCat on the Go!

The new PrairieCat Libraries Mobile app is now available for download from Google Play and the Apple App Store. Search "PrairieCat Libraries Mobile" and look for the PrairieCat on the Go icon.

Connect with your library right from your device - search the catalog, manage your account, place holds, renew materials, access digital resources, view events and library information, store digital library cards, get library notifications, and more.

New features include:

- Access to e-materials – checkout e-books and e-audiobooks right from the app
- Improved linked account management
- Optional reading tracker and lists
- Patron preferences for layouts and languages

Library staff are available for any questions you may have.



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Library Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00am - 8:00pm

Friday & Saturday

9:00am - 5:00pm

Sunday

1:00 - 5:00pm

Library Closed Dates

Friday, December 19

Wednesday, December 24

Thursday, December 25

Wednesday, December 31

Thursday, January 1

Closed 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Christmas Eve

Christmas Day

New Year's Eve

New Years Day

Winter Used Book Sale

Saturday, December 6 - Sunday, December 14



Shop the amazing selection of fiction, nonfiction, teen, kids' books, DVDs, and more! Stop by any time during the library's open hours to find some books for gift giving, or select a few presents for yourself. Spend \$10.00 or more to be entered into a prize

drawing for one of four gift cards to local businesses!

Please note - no donations are accepted

Sunday, November 30 - Sunday, December 14.

We greatly appreciate all the donations we receive, but no donations will be accepted the two weeks of the book sale, including set-up time and book sale dates. This allows our volunteers to focus on our current inventory and make the book sale run smoothly. *Thank you for your understanding!*

Friday, December 5 from 12:00 to 4:00pm

Preview Sale

\$5 fee for annual Friends membership to enter

Saturday, December 13 and Sunday, December 14

Fill a bag for \$3!

BE A MONSTER READER!

Winter Reading BINGO

December 1 - 31

All Ages

Be a Monster Reader by joining our winter Beanstack BINGO challenge for all ages! Complete different activities, including attending a library program, exploring the library's many digital collections, reviewing a book, recording your minutes, and more, to mark off spaces on your virtual BINGO card. Get BINGO and be entered into the weekly prize drawing. Complete whiteout BINGO by December 31 to be entered into the Whiteout Prize Drawing.

Visit cherryvalleylib.beanstack.org or log in to the Beanstack app beginning December 1 to register and start recording your reading and activities.